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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you intend to sign the petition of the Northern Marianas Descent Corp. opposing the grant of improved status to alien workers in the CNMI?

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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

LOCAL



Navy and Marine Corps teams destroy a simulated enemy on Farallon de Medinilla. **► PAGE 6**



Coca-Cola's holds its first drawing of its "Open a Season of Happiness" promo. **► PAGE 17**



The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa celebrates the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. **► PAGE 25**

Less than 3 weeks before tax amnesty expires. **PAGE 3**
More efficient cattle export to Guam underway. **PAGE 22**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Army Pacific is proposing an up-to-\$100,000 upgrade to the CNMI Department of Public Safety's firing range on Saipan so that soldiers can get their Army weapons qual-

» **Official says this has no link to other military plans in Marianas**
» **Lt. governor says no formal proposal yet**

ification on island instead of sending them to Hawaii or Guam. In exchange, DPS and other local and federal law enforcement agencies can use the Army Reserve's training facilities.

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Steep drop in power use in seven years

» **Revised residential rate blocks, standby charge for big customers pushed**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. disclosed that both the number of its customers and their consumption of power continue to plummet, triggering a request for the corporation to revise its residential rate blocks and to allow it to assess a standby-charge for large customers that are connected to CUC's electric system.

Documents obtained by *Saipan*
See **STEEP** on **Page 4**

US Army offers up to \$100K upgrade to DPS firing range



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), right, along with Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, center, prepares to try out the EST 2000, a laser-based, virtual small arms engagement skills training, at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico yesterday afternoon. The U.S. Army Pacific plans to enhance a Department of Public Safety firing range for on-island weapons qualification of soldiers, in exchange for DPS and other local and federal agencies' use of the Army Reserve's training facilities and equipment.

Aviation schools prepare for boom in drone jobs

By DAVE KOLPACK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP)—Two student pilots are seated shoulder to shoulder before a bank of video monitors, maneuvering an unmanned aircraft by keyboard and mouse as the drone descends toward a virtual runway in a suburban landscape.

Aaron Gabrielson and Andrew Regenhard, aviation students at the University of North Dakota and self-proclaimed video-game junkies, could just as well

be sitting on a couch playing Xbox. But instead of tapping their fingers on a controller, they're learning to fly the plane and use onboard equipment that includes

a camera with a zoom lens.

"Some people argue that nothing is going to be like flying an actual airplane. Granted, looking down and seeing you're 5,000 feet above the ground is

See **AVIATION** on **Page 4**



This undated photo released Thursday, May 30, 2013 by aerospace technology company Northrop Grumman shows the RQ-4 Block 20 Global Hawk unmanned aircraft that students in the University of North Dakota aviation program will learn to fly.

AP

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\$2 cigarette tax hike now rests with House

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A committee that reviewed a bill seeking to increase the cigarette tax by \$2 a pack recommends that the full House membership decide on it, owing to the controversial nature of the proposal and its seeming conflict with a separate “sin tax” bill that covers not only cigarettes but also alcoholic drinks, soda, and food items that are not considered healthy.

“The Ways and Means Committee will allow the full body to decide on it,” committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

If a pack of cigarettes now costs \$3.75, for example, this could go up to \$5.75 a pack once House floor leader Ralph Demapan’s (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 18-118 becomes law.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), also a committee member, separately said he supports the bill’s intent to generate revenue, among other things, but he raised a particular concern.

“My concern is that some distributors have started bringing in low-end cigarettes or cheap cigarettes. This is very dangerous. When the \$2 tax increase becomes law, the cost of cigarettes would still be \$5-plus and not more than \$7 if they buy the low-end cigarettes,” Yumul said.

A House session may be held next week and the committee report on the bill could be on the agenda.

The competing “sin tax” increase bill, authored by Rep. Felicidad Ogomoro (R-Saipan), seeks to help promote a healthy lifestyle in the CNMI and fund the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce opposes the cigarette tax hike bill, saying that

raising cigarette taxes by 100 percent will not necessarily result in reduced smoking, and the tax hike would further increase the underground distribution of cigarettes.

The cigarette excise tax last went up in December 2010, from \$1.75 to \$2 a pack. The cigarette tax increase at the time was one of the provisions of a 2002 law that requires a 25-cent increase eight years later, to help fund tobacco control programs.

» Sablan: Governor to sign electronic gaming bill

Electronic gaming bill

Sablan, meanwhile, said that Gov. Eloy S. Inos indicated at their meeting yesterday that the governor will sign into law an electronic gaming bill that the Senate approved on Thursday last week. Sablan authored the bill.

“The governor said he will sign it either [Thursday] or Friday, or maybe in the next few days. I told the governor that it’s not the bill’s intention to move poker hotels to hotels so they will pay only \$2,500 in license fee,” said Sablan.

Poker license fee on Saipan is \$12,500 per machine.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the governor had yet to sign the electronic gaming bill as of last night.

Once the bill is signed into law, Sablan plans to introduce a bill that would “remove misinterpretation” of the measure.

He reiterated that the bill places restrictions on where these electronic gaming machines could be installed and that there are only a few hotels that meet the criteria.

The compromise version allows electronic gaming operations only at hotels or resorts with at least 100 rooms, or those attached to a golf course if they have less than 100 rooms. These are only allowed on Saipan.

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Only less than 3 weeks before tax amnesty expires

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson and House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) separately encouraged yesterday those with back taxes to avail of the new tax amnesty program, the forms for which are available at the Division of Revenue and Taxation beginning today.

This comes nine days after

Villagomez is NMC Foundation's new executive director

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Richard Villagomez, the former administrator of the government's pension agency, has been hired as the new executive director of the Northern Marianas College Foundation.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart told the Board of Regents Friday that Villagomez is slated to start work at the foundation this week.

Villagomez had been with the NMI Retirement Fund under various capacities, including loan manager, analyst, and deputy administrator, until his appointment as administrator in May 2010. His contract was not renewed in July 2012.

In his new post, Villagomez will serve at the pleasure of the NMC Foundation, which will pay for his salary and benefits.

The foundation currently has the following members: Dr. Alan Markoff, David Burger, Ben Babauta, David Sablan, Bud White, Jerry Facey, Lillian Cabrera, and Joe Santos. Hart and alumni president Jack Kiyoshi are ex-officio members.

The Board of Regents established the NMC Foundation in 1999 for the purpose of acquiring, managing, and disbursing funds from alternative sources to support the advancement of NMC's educational programs and services.

Last year, the NMC Foundation had an estimated asset value of close to \$5 million, the bulk of which is invested in stocks and other investments. The Foundation was primarily established to handle the endowment fund received by the college from a land grant amounting to \$3 million.

Last year, the Foundation board adopted to develop a new foundation that will separately function and will focus on raising funds for the college from international sources, including philanthropists and foundations across the nation.

This separate foundation is expected to commence only once the college reaffirms its accreditation with the Accrediting Commission of Community Junior and Colleges.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed the tax amnesty law, Public Law 18-29, on Dec. 4. This is only the third time that the CNMI government has offered a tax amnesty.

Under the tax amnesty program, taxpayers may request for the waiver of penalty and interest imposed on late-filed returns, under-reported income, and delinquent tax liabilities. A special return and a request for waiver form must be filed to participate in the program.

Larson said the tax amnesty program will expire on Jan. 2, 2014.

"We encourage taxpayers who wish to avail of the amnesty program to come in and file well before the deadline to avoid longer lines and wait time if they file closer to the deadline," Larson told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan, author of the bill that became the tax amnesty law, said

there won't be any telling how many will avail of the amnesty until the expiration date but he is encouraging those with back taxes to avail of the program.

"I hope people will come forward and take advantage of this program," he added.

He said tax amnesty is one of the most effective ways to generate additional revenue during difficult times without raising taxes.

In a separate statement, Finance said the special returns and request for waiver form will be available at the Division of Revenue and Taxation

beginning today.

"To learn more about the amnesty program, contact the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1098 or visit the Dandan Office. Additional information will be available at the Department of Finance website at www.cnmi-dof.net," Finance said.

The CNMI government provided tax amnesty programs in 2001 and 2005 through Public Laws 12-51 and 14-28, respectively, in an effort to collect outstanding tax revenues.

Taxpayers who already received amnesty under these

two previous programs are no longer eligible for tax amnesty under P.L. 18-29.

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'My Tomboy in Saipan' highlights Paskong Pinoy 2013

The Paskong Pinoy 2013 festivities will kick off tomorrow at the Garapan Central Park, with the "My Tomboy in Saipan" competition serving as the event's highlight.

United Filipino Organization president Annamae Adaza said that five contestants have signed for the competition, which is patterned after the "That's My Tomboy" segment of ABC-CBN's popular variety TV show, "Showtime."

UFO has put up a total prize money of \$1,000—\$500 for first place, \$300 for second place, and \$200 for third place for the "My Tomboy in Saipan" tilt. It will be hosted by DJ RV of Magic 100.3FM KWAW.

"That's My Boy" on "Showtime" is seen locally and features androgynous-looking women or lesbians who look and dress like men.

The 2013 Paskong Pinoy will also have a lantern-making

contest, children Christmas/art drawing contest, and a Christmas singing competition for adults and children.

Adaza said the adult singing competition (15 years old and up) already has five competitors, while four have signed up for the children's division (7 to 15 years old). The winner of each division gets \$100, second place \$75, and third place \$50.

The lantern competition will award \$100 to the top winner

and \$75 and \$50 for second and third placers, respectively. The price for the raffle ticket is \$1.

Performers during the Paskong Pinoy 2013 include the High Pitch Band with Rolly Capayas, Bernice Shane Sabino, Uncle Ben's Dream Academy Stars, Office of Aging *man'amko*, Cornerstone Church choir, Erica Faye Tibera, Allen's School of Dance, Hopwood Junior High School, and the Umang Glee Club.

Seven non-food vendors and four food vendors will also be plying their trade at the event.

Docomo Pacific is again this year's major sponsor of

Paskong Pinoy, which starts 2pm on Saturday. Other sponsors include LBC Mabuhay and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation (*Mark Rabago*)

AVIATION

From Page 1

pretty exciting, but I've always been addicted to video games, and this is awesome," Regenhart said.

Mastering the Corsair simulator is the first practice course for the two trainees, who are among hundreds of student pilots nationwide preparing for jobs that don't exist yet. They and their classmates are eager to cash in on the booming market for

drone operators that's expected to develop after more unmanned aircraft become legal to fly in U.S. airspace, which could happen in the next few years.

The university's unmanned aircraft degree program, the nation's first, exploded from five students in 2009 to 120 students last year. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Kansas State have since added similar programs. Dozens of other schools offer some courses in what's known as UAS - unmanned aircraft systems - which range from drones as big as small planes to 2-foot-wide mini-helicopters.

The first UAS master's degree program, focused on engineering, was launched at Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach, Fla., campus this fall.

"This pie is pretty big," said Al Palmer, director of UND's unmanned aircraft program. "Everyone can get their little slice of the pie, because we can't do all the training in North Dakota."

The skills needed to fly larger unmanned planes are not unlike those required to fly modern aircraft with computer-based flight controls, professors say. The toughest part of unmanned flying comes with doing it from the ground: You can't feel what's going on.

"You don't have feedback," Regenhart said. "When you push the yoke forward in the aircraft, you feel yourself and everything going down. With this, you just see it."

Drones are best known for their use by the U.S. military, but other markets beckon. Amazon made a splash earlier this month by unveiling an embryonic effort that might someday deliver packages by drone, though the company acknowledged practical use is years away.

Most of the potential civilian drone market is in precision agriculture. Unmanned aircraft are already used for seeding and spraying in Japan. Drones may be used someday to detect disease in crops, depending on the development of sensors.

The potential applications for other unmanned aircraft are endless, said Michael Toscano, president and CEO of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International.

The Boeing ScanEagle, which can fly for 20 hours on a couple of gallons of fuel, was originally developed to help commercial fishermen find and track schools of tuna. The Navy has used the plane to watch pirates. In recent years, North Dakota law enforcement and the university have used the drone to monitor rivers during flood threats in the Red River Valley.

For students, it all adds up to strong job prospects after graduation.

"Whether it's designing a vehicle to go into forest fires or catch poachers in the Galapagos, they're getting opportunities to be part of the next generation of aerospace like no one else is," said Melanie Hanns, Embry-Riddle spokeswoman.

Many students who grew up wanting to be commercial airline pilots are changing their major to unmanned systems. Among them are self-proclaimed computer geeks who don't mind staying in one place.

"Airplanes are cool and fun and all that stuff," said Logan Lass, a student at North Dakota. "But it's my particular personality that I don't really want to fly big jets. Growing up around computers and having a love for aviation, I figured the best option was to combine the two of them."

ARMY

From Page 1

The local government has yet to warm up to the idea over worries that this could be linked to, among other things, military plans to expand live-fire training in the Marianas, including on Tinian and Pagan.

Jerry Cox, chief of training support system for the U.S. Army Pacific, said yesterday that they are trying to make the CNMI government understand that the proposal is specific to DPS' small arms range "and nothing else." He said this proposal does not have anything to do with other military ventures or plans in the CNMI.

"We are not trying to generate a lease or control the land. We want the Police Department to control the land like they always have and we just want to be able to use it," Cox said in an interview at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico yesterday afternoon.

Cox and others from Fort Shafter in Hawaii invited CNMI lawmakers and other Cabinet members to see and use some of the Reserve Center's training equipment and facilities, which local enforcement personnel can also use for their training.

"So we decided to invite everybody out here, show them what assets we have that they can utilize and hopes that in the spirit of open cooperation, very open honesty, thus we want to be able to fix this range so our soldiers can qualify and at the same time we want to offer up some of the training assets that we have here on the island that will enhance the police department and your SWAT teams and other people..." Cox said.

Reps. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), and Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), along with Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, were at the Reserve Center yesterday to see the training facility.

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, when sought for comment yesterday, confirmed that he met with the U.S. Army Pacific

representatives on Tuesday on behalf of the Inos administration "but they have yet to formally submit proposal to the administration."

Cox said their proposal is for USARPAC to transform the DPS firing range into one that meets U.S. Army standard "for everyone's benefit."

Instead of sending soldiers in the CNMI to Guam or Hawaii for the required regular weapons qualification, it would be more cost-effective to do this on Saipan using an enhanced DPS firing range, he said.

"Our concern is only getting the Reserves here the qualifications range to qualify. As we researched this, we found out that the police force does a lot of stuff that our soldiers do, just a different type of capacity. So if we're going to utilize their range, we thought it would only be fair if they get to utilize our EST, our MOUT site... It's like a joint venture," Cox said.

He was referring to EST 2000, a virtual small arms engagement skills training system. MOUT stands for "military operations in urban terrain."

On the U.S. Army's side, they would be able to recoup the estimated \$100,000 investment in enhancing the DPS firing range within the year, compared to sending 100 soldiers, for example, to Hawaii for \$1,000 air fare each.

This does not count the time that soldiers are away from their families or home.

Cox said there is already an existing memorandum of agreement between the Army Reserve and DPS that allows the former to use the latter's firing range.

But Cox said agencies have changed some of the rules, including making a "more binding" agreement that requires a license or permit that would allow soldiers to use the firing range a guaranteed number of days in a year.

"Once we have that, then I'm allowed to spend the dollars to buy the targets and level the facilities, dig in the target pits and enhance the range... which is why we're trying to get the support from all the legislators," he said.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday to my auntie, Carol Masga Agulto! May the Lord and Papa Francisco bless you on this special day of yours. May you be filled with joy and laughter. Have a roartastic day and many more years to come! Greetings come from Mitsue Nevaeh. Also, may the Lord bless you on your very special day, sister. Wishing you so much love and happiness! Hugs and kisses from your sister/prima Kim, Eric, and Baby Izaiah.

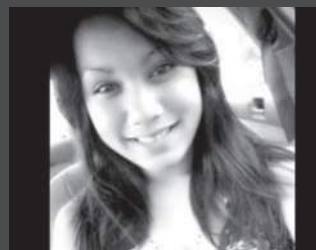
Belated happy 14th birthday to our Nicole! No matter how old you may become, you will always be our baby! You bring such joy to our lives. We are so proud and will always be proud of you! Happy birthday, sweetie! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, and your brothers.



Happy 14th birthday to my sweetest brother, Shawn Emmanuel Lizama Santos, who is celebrating his birthday today! Although your big sissy is in Guam I remember your day and you will always be my baby brother! God bless you with many more birthdays and may everyone shower you with lots of love, gifts, and many more. Greetings come from CraiMar Esri Calvo.



Happy 20th birthday to Tanya J. Castro! One more year and you're finally there! May God bless you and shower you with lots of love! Greetings come from your sister Lany.



STEEP

From Page 1

Tribune show that in the last seven years, CUC experienced a dramatic decline in the amount of power used by its customers, mainly due to increases in the cost of fuel used by CUC to generate electricity.

In 2006, CUC had about 12,500 residential customers who used about 134 million kilowatt-hour of power. By 2013, a span of just seven years, those numbers have declined, with the number of customers plummeting to about

11,000 and their power use going down by more than half to about 56 million kWh.

According to CUC, the average residential customer in 2006 used about 895 kWh per month. In 2013 the average usage is down to about 350 kWh every month.

Saipan Tribune learned that one of the guiding principles of residential rate design is that the first block in an increasing block rate structure should roughly equal the usage of the average residential customer.

In a joint stipulation filed with the Commonwealth Public Utili-

ties Commission, both CUC and the CPUC consultant, Georgetown Consulting Services, recommended changing the existing rate structure to factor in the decline in average residential use.

Since so few customers consume more than 2,000 kWh per month, they said the top block should be eliminated in the current structure.

Under the existing blocks, kilowatt-hour usage per month is broken into four blocks: 0-500 kWh; 501-1,000 kWh; 1,000-2,000 kWh; and 2,000 and above.

CUC and Georgetown recom-

mend using only three blocks: 0-350 (kWh per month); 351-1,200; and 1,200 and above.

In a recent presentation to the commission, CUC officials disclosed that it has a total of 14,401 electric customers that include 10,878 residential users; 2,606 commercial users; and 917 government customers.

The proposed changes to the residential rate blocks is among the items the CPUC will decide on within the month or early January, along with other proposals such as the imposition of a standby-charge for large CUC customers who are hooked to

the system's power grid but rely mainly on their own power generators.

CUC officials, during this week's public hearing, disclosed that the agency incurs significant costs serving customers who require only periodic or sporadic large purchases from CUC.

The proposed standby charge, once approved by CPUC, will only apply to customers who generate their own power exceeding 200 kW; are interconnected to the CUC grid; and purchase less than 10 percent of power from CUC.

The standby charge will not apply to customers with facilities that are used exclusively for emergency services.

Both CUC and Georgetown recommend a monthly standby charge of \$20/kW per month.

CUC officials said that large customers can avoid paying this charge by disconnecting from CUC's grid. Those who are disconnected and then opt to reconnect will incur a penalty charge.

By implementing this charge, CUC ensures that its small customers do not have to pay for capacity that is used only from time to time by large customers.

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Navy, Marine Corps team destroy simulated enemy on FDM



U.S. MARINE CORPS/CPL. JOSEPH KARWICK

A MH-60S Seahawk helicopter fires an AGM-114 Hellfire air-to-surface missile at simulated enemy personnel during a live-fire, close-air support training on Dec. 10 at the Farallon de Medinilla Target Range, Northern Mariana Islands.

By CPL. JOSEPH KARWICK
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS—Navy MH-60S Seahawk helicopters supported close-air support missions with Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 12 on Dec. 10 at the Farallon de Medinilla Target Range during Exercise Forager Fury II.

The objective of the simulated mission was to provide close-air support to military personnel on the ground at risk of being overrun by a simulated enemy unit.

Forager Fury II allows MAG-12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force to improve aviation combat readiness and will simulate operations in a deployed, expeditionary environment.

"We checked in with 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, tracking simulated enemy personnel moving in on a simulated village on FDM target range," said Navy Lt. Jonathon Lance, a MH-60S Seahawk pilot with Helicopter Sea Attack Squadron 25, based at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. "We received an update from the joint air controllers that they needed close-air support immediately on their position, so we followed that with one simulated Hellfire missile run, as well as several live-fire gun passes to suppress personnel in the area."

The training has allowed many firsts not only for the Marine Corps personnel, but for the Navy service members as well.

"[Being able to] live fire with guns and Hellfire missiles, [happens to a] pilot maybe two or three times in a career," said Lance. "This is outstanding training to be able to go from a forward operating base, head out and [destroy] a target."

The close-air assault on

FDM was made possible by several units, sections and services working together to accomplish the mission.

"We came up here in support of the Marines participating in FFII surge operation," said Navy Lt. Monica Mondloch a MH-60S Seahawk pilot with HSC-25. "It is much better for us to work forward deployed from Guam, so we do not have to stop and refuel on our way to FDM. "[Working with the Marines], having the forward operations base here on Tinian was helpful for us and has really helped us to accomplish our mission, and our assault today."

Firing a live Hellfire missile at simulated enemy units was not the only highlight of the day for the helicopters at the range, as the crewman aboard each helicopter were also able to fire their weapons in support of the exercise as well.

"My job is to employ the crew-served weapons in the event we have any enemies coming out of the area we were attacking," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeremy A. Cieplich, a naval aircrewman with HSC-25. "I was firing the [GAU-21/A .50 caliber machine gun] out of the left side and my crewmate fired the M240 out of the right side, so we had all angles of the helicopter covered."

As the close-air support mission ended, Mondloch expressed her enthusiasm about the successful training and how interoperability helps accomplish a larger mission.

"We really appreciate the ability to be able to work with the Marines here," said Mondloch. "It is just like working back at home except we are forward deployed. We have gotten all the support we have needed. The blue-green team is good to go."

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AT COMMITTEE HEARING ON NOMINEE FOR CHCC BOARD TRUSTEE

Senate panel eyes oversight hearing on CHCC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate Health Committee chair Sen. Jack Borja (Ind-Tinian) announced during Wednesday afternoon's public hearing on a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board member nomination that his committee will hold an oversight hearing on the entire CHCC over what he later said was a need to treat Tinian and Rota fairly when it comes to health service funding and personnel salary increases, among other things.

Borja said this could be a joint oversight hearing with the House Committee on Health chaired by Rep. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan).

He pointed out that Tinian Health Center's budget, for example, is only \$997,406 for fiscal year 2014, while Rota Health Center has \$1.9 million.

Borja added that personnel salaries "including lab technicians, nurses, support staff or administrative staff are believed to be higher for those on Saipan than those on Tinian and Rota, despite having the same qualifications."

"We want to get the answers from the corporation. Any oversight hearing is not only because there's something negative; it could also be a way to improve services or add more services," Borja told

Saipan Tribune.

This comes weeks after the CHCC board approved a \$40.9-million budget for this fiscal year, providing an additional 103 positions for the corporation.

Borja's announcement of an oversight hearing Wednesday afternoon came moments after members of the Senate Committee on Executive Appoint-



Borja

ment and Government Investigations emerged from the president's conference room.

During the EAGI panel's public hearing on Roy T. Rios' renomination as a member of the CHCC

board of trustees, Borja made the unusual motion to go into an executive session. Senators seconded the motion.

EAGI Committee acting

chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) allowed the executive session in order to get some "clarifications" from Rios.

The executive session, which started at 2:26pm and ended at 2:54pm, included Rios and CHCC interim chief executive officer Esther Muña.

CHCC board chair Jack Torres waited in the gallery, which was empty for the public hearing on Rios' nomination, except for the governor's office's Nace Soalabai and special assistant

for public transportation Thomas J. Camacho.

Rios, a Commonwealth Transit Authority planner, declined to discuss what transpired in the executive session. Nevertheless, he told senators he's committed to taking up the job once again as a CHCC board trustee.

CHCC's Muña and Torres also testified in support of Rios' nomination and urged the Senate to confirm him.

"Mr. Rios possesses rare analytical skills for diagnosing

problems and devising viable solutions. His ability to remain unflustered during frenzied and stressful periods proves his ability to work and deliberate well under pressure," Torres told senators.

He said Rios' skills and experience, intelligence, and maturity will continue to be a great asset to CHC.

"We have enormous challenges ahead, but we also have a solid record of accomplishments," Torres added.

Camacho, in presenting the governor's nominee to the Senate panel, said that Rios will serve another four-year term once he is confirmed.

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8 schools to compete in Christmas caroling tilt

The 12th Annual Christmas in the Marianas continues tomorrow night, Dec. 14, with the Christmas caroling competition at the Paseo de Marianas.

According to Friends of Paso de Marianas' Sonia Siwa, eight schools have signed up for this year's competition, including defending elementary division champion Koblerville Elementary School.

The rest of Saturday's lineup include Kagman, Oleai, and Garapan elementary schools, Mt. Carmel Elementary School, Green Meadow School, and Kagman High School.

Last year, Koblerville Elementary and Mount Carmel students topped the elementary division and high school

divisions, respectively, of the competition.

The 12th Annual Christmas in the Marianas kicked off last week with the Christmas tree decorating contest. San Antonio, Kagman, Tanapag, William S. Reyes, Oleai, Dandan, Gregorio T. Camacho, San Vicente, and Koblerville elementary schools; Green Meadow School, Golden Harvest International School, Grace Christian Academy, Mt. Carmel School, and Agape Christian School took part in the competition.

The monthlong celebration continues on Dec. 21 with the Parade of Floats that will be held around sunset from the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan along Beach Road to Pas-

eo de Marianas. Also on Dec. 21, Marianas Walking Association will host the 5K Christmas Health Walk.

Festivities continue with the annual Mochitsuki Festival on Dec. 28, organized in collaboration with the Japanese Society. The festival marks the preparation of mocha—a dough-like substance of glutinous rice—for the Japanese New Year.

In addition to the Saturday events, entertainment will be provided nightly on Dec. 22, 27, 29, and 30.

Christmas in the Marianas is sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority, PDM Promoters, Inc., Team PDI, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Docomo Pacific, DFS Galleria, and Kinpachi

Restaurant. Event sponsors are Office of the Governor, DCCA-Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture, Division of Environmental Quality, departments of Public Safety, Public Works, and Lands and Natural Resources; Division of Parks and Recreation, Koblerville Youth Learning Center, CNMI Public School System, MINA, Japan Saipan Travel Association, KKMP, Power 99, KZMI, KCNM, Magic 100, Carolinian Cultural Village Inc., IT&E, RNV Construction, Country House Restaurant, Moby Dick Restaurant, S.P.E. Saipan, Inc., Hamada Production, Misa Enterprises, and Kinpachi Convenience. *(Mark Rabago)*

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 13, 2005

Govt has \$4.2M in retirement arrears

The government has been five pay periods behind in employer's contribution amounting to some \$4.2 million. NMI Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said the government paid the Fund \$1.2 million on Nov. 29, but this has not settled the pay periods covering September and October and one pay period in December. The government usually pays \$835,000 to \$850,000 in employer contribution per pay period. "They paid some \$1.2 million recently but it's not enough. We're still waiting for government to pay on Wednesday," said Reyes. The government is required to shoulder 24 percent of the retirement contributions for about 5,000 employees.

PTI urges CTC to uniformly apply franchise fees

Pacific Telecom, Inc. reiterated its call on the Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission to look into the imposition of franchise fee exclusively on the company, excluding other local telecom providers from the obligation. Former CNMI Chief Justice Jose Dela Cruz, a PTI board member, branded the current setup as unfair. He said the CTC should also impose such obligation on PTI's competitor firms. "Right now, Micronesian Telecommunications Corp. [wholly owned by PTI] is the only telecom company paying the fee," Dela Cruz said in a telephone interview last Friday. "That's not fair."

December 13, 2006

Lengthier land leases endorsed

The Fitial administration is endorsing amendments to constitutional provisions that limit leasehold for persons not of Northern Marianas descent. Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, in a letter to the non-profit CNMI Enterprise Group, asked the organization to support a proposal to extend the leasehold term from 55 to 75 years and, at the same time, allow a landlord and tenant to terminate existing lease agreements and enter into a new agreement for the full term permitted under the Constitution.

CK office fed up with delinquency in area

The Office of the Saipan Mayor's youth programs coordinator alerted authorities yesterday to a "serious" juvenile delinquency problem in Chalan Kanoa as she reported that the Mayor's extension office was burglarized again over the weekend. "It's a major problem [juvenile delinquency]. We have a lot of delinquent kids in this area," according to Olinka C. Chaudhry, youth programs coordinator for the Office of the Mayor. "It's horrible! I think it's disgusting!" said Chaudhry who is holding office at the Mayor's Extension Office in Chalan Kanoa District 3.

December 13, 2007

US House OKs federalization

The U.S. House of Representatives approved Tuesday the bill that would place local immigration under federal control. The NMI Immigration, Security, and Labor Act, passed by a voice vote, would extend immigration law and create a federally run guest-worker program in the Commonwealth. It would also give the CNMI a delegate in the House with limited voting powers. Currently, all U.S. possessions except the CNMI have a delegate in Congress. However, the House-passed bill does not include the controversial provision granting improved status to long-term guest workers in the CNMI. Instead, the bill requires the U.S. administration to submit to Congress within two years after the bill's enactment a report with recommendations on how to grant the guest workers a more permanent status.

Bridge Capital vague about La Fiesta gaming

The lending company that owns the former La Fiesta Shopping Mall said yesterday it's on the lookout for new business opportunities, but shed little light on its rumored role in efforts to get gaming legalized on Saipan. Jon Anderson, loan officer for Bridge Capital LLC, said he is clueless as to what investor had approached the Fitial administration about possible gambling operations at La Fiesta. "We own the lease for La Fiesta. So the government of the CNMI is in effect our tenant. That's the only involvement we have with La Fiesta," Anderson said. Asked whether Bridge Capital was interested in gaming operations, he said, "Bridge Capital is interested in any opportunities that come up. We are not primarily a gaming company, but we look at all kinds of things all the time."

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Chorizos \$16⁴⁹ 3 lbs. 	Campbells Chicken Noodle 89¢ 10 OZ. 	King Chef Vegetable Oil 5gal \$31⁹⁹ 	Ruby Kist Orange & Apple Juice \$3⁹⁹ 64oz. 	White Sugar 2kg \$2⁷⁹ 2 KG. 	Fresco Vegetable Oil \$9⁹⁹ 1 GAL. 	Dragon Vegetable Oil \$9⁴⁹ 1GAL. 	Kikkoman Soy Sauce \$4⁴⁹ 1.6 L. 	Rota Water \$5⁹⁹ 350ML. 	

| FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN |

Tilapia 99¢ /LB. 	Milk Fish \$1⁶⁹ /LB. 	Sea Wave Calamari \$2²⁹ 16oz. 	Vega Shrimp \$6⁷⁵ 	Bar S Jumbo Franks \$1²⁹ 	Bar S Ham \$18⁹⁹ 10LBS. 	Ground Beef \$11⁹⁹ 5LBS. 	Chamorro Sausage \$4⁴⁹ 
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Mackerel Pike	\$6.49	Beef Feet	\$7.99
Pork Hock	\$7.99	Beef Shortribs	\$18.99
Pork Adobo	\$9.99	Ox Tail	\$15.99
Pork Bellies	\$11.99	Smoked Ham Steak	\$12.99

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Dawn Dishwashing Soap \$8⁹⁹ 90 oz. 	Joy Ultra \$1⁴⁹ 12.5 OZ. \$6⁹⁹ 90 OZ. 	Purex \$4⁴⁹ 50 OZ. 	Gain Liquid \$5⁹⁹ 50 OZ. \$9⁹⁹ 100 OZ. 	Gain Powder \$15⁹⁹ 102 Loads \$18⁹⁹ 20 Loads 	Head & Shoulders \$5⁴⁹ 23OZ. \$7⁹⁹ Shampoo 	Bounty Paper Towel \$20⁹⁹ 15 Rolls 	Charmin Basic Toilet Paper \$7⁹⁹ 12 ROLLS \$14⁹⁹ 24 ROLLS 	Foam Plates \$3²⁹ 50 CT \$7⁹⁹ 125 CT 	Charmin Tissue (Regular) \$7⁹⁹ 24 Rolls 
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Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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By **NICHOLAS A. BASBANES**
Los Angeles Times

Nicholas Basbane's most recent book, *On Paper: The Everything of Its Two-Thousand-Year History*, was published this fall. He wrote this for the *Los Angeles Times*.



A paperless society? Not so fast.

Predictions of a paperless society have been bandied about for close to half a century, driven by an unbri- dled faith that technology would eliminate the need for something as old-fashioned as record-keeping on pulverized cellulose.

There is no denying, of course, that seismic changes have taken place or that they are everywhere apparent.

Technological changes have certainly taken a toll on the pulp and paper industries, especially in the production of newsprint, which has been particularly hard hit. Between 2000 and 2010, as newspapers lost readers of their print editions, some 120 paper mills were closed in the United States and Canada, with a loss of 240,000 jobs, or about a third of the paper industry's workforce.

International Paper Co. announced in September that it was closing a mill in Courtland, Ala., resulting in the loss of 1,200 jobs and reducing the company's paper-making capacity by 950,000 tons of "uncoated free sheet" paper a year.

The publishing industry, meanwhile, has been hedging its bets by making sure that many of the new books it issues between hard covers are released simultaneously in electronic editions, including, ironically enough, my own recently published book, *"On Paper: The Everything of Its Two-Thousand-Year History."*

But does all this mean a paperless society is imminent? Hardly.

An association of paper historians based in Britain has estimated that there are 20,000 identifiable uses of paper in the world today. One traditional papermaker, P.H. Glatfelter Co. of Pennsylvania, redefined itself 15 years ago by concentrating its efforts on niche markets. Today it makes, by its own reckoning, paper for 1,000 different commercial products, including U.S. postage stamps, Twinings tea bags, Hallmark greeting cards, Bicycle playing cards, Band-Aid bandage components, Carlsberg and Heineken beer labels, and Reese's Peanut Butter Cup wrappers.

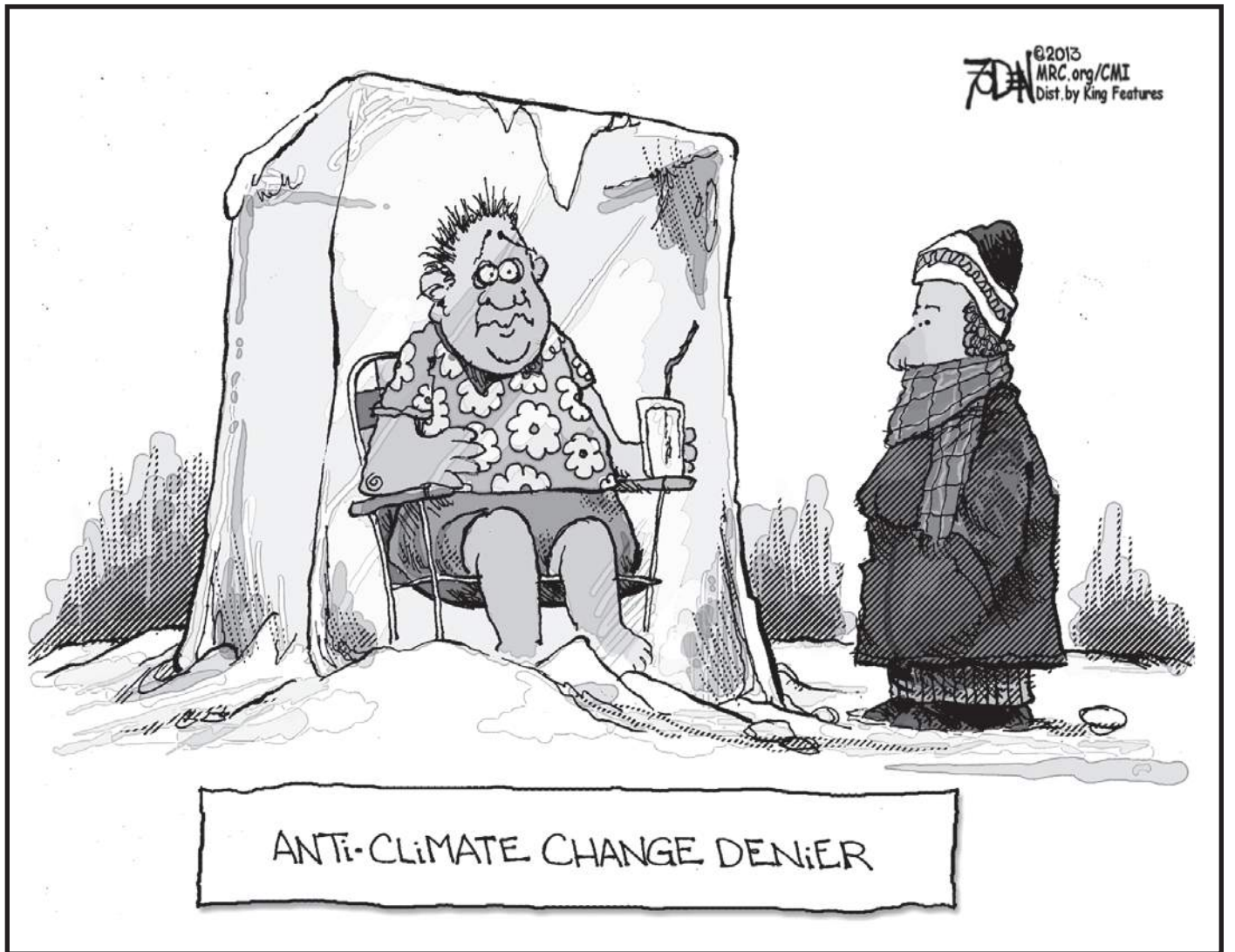
Net sales for Glatfelter have grown from \$579 million in 2000 to \$1.6 billion last year, and while that number is impressive, it is dwarfed when compared with the \$27.8 billion in sales recorded in 2012 by International Paper, an increase of \$1.8 billion over the previous 12 months for the world's largest paper manufacturer.

In Franklin, Va., a paper mill has been repurposed for the production of "fluff pulp" used in the making of disposable diapers, wipes and feminine hygiene products, where sales are robust.

With respect to the big picture, worldwide production of paper and cardboard in 2011 stood at about 400 million metric tons, more than half of it used in China, the United States and Japan.

The idea was that paper would be made obsolete by such things as email, electronic data storage and the Internet, technologies that government agencies embraced early on. But here's a telling statistic: In 2011, according to InfoTrends, a research firm that specializes in digital imaging and document management, local, state and federal governmental offices used 122 bil-

See **PAPERLESS** on next page



Free Mandela

We begin chronologically. Madiba comes from the Xhosa clan and becomes a lawyer. He morphs into a firebrand of the African National Congress and gets sentenced to life in prison for crimes committed by the ANC of which Nelson Mandela was the head. In his trial in 1964, he said: *"I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."*

The international community, in response to the apartheid policies of South Africa and in light of legal civil rights advances in the United States, pressured SA to divest itself of its white supremacist bias. UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, speaking at Mandela's funeral, talked of the sanctions imposed on South Africa. The handwriting was on the wall when the enigmatic F. W. de Klerk effected the recognition of the ANC and released Nelson Mandela from 27 years in jail.

Warmly called F.W., de Klerk traced early India ancestry and a descent of a Khoikhoi interpreter (Hottentots to Europeans), most recently of Austrian lineage. He presided over the dissolution of the apartheid policy and served as deputy president to Nelson Mandela when the latter was elected president. Both men were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. They were adversarial partners full of caustic remarks about and against each other. Still, they moved a nation into new times.

On BBC in early 2010, F.W. said: "When Mandela goes it will be a moment when all South Africans put away their political differences, will take hands, and will together honor maybe the biggest known South African that has ever lived." The day after the Madiba's death, he intoned: "He was a great unifier and a very, very special man in this regard beyond everything else he did. This emphasis on reconciliation was his biggest legacy."

The freeing of Mandela was also the freeing of de Klerk, perhaps one freer than the other but nonetheless both freed. This is instructive to all the proud and fledgling democracies, councils, legislatures, plenums, diets, presidiums, parliaments, and congresses of the realm. The program of freedom is not an ideological battle but a pragmatic one, the incarnation of visualized possibility made flesh in actual time and space on persons and peoples.

The dramatic changes of imaginal metaphors required were unmistakable to Mandela. When de Klerk decided to release him from prison, F.W. wanted it done immediately where Nelson would be flown to Johannesburg and set free. Madiba refused. He needed 10 days for the ANC to prepare for his changed status. This was an audacious refusal of a jailbird being released on pres-

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is pinoy-panda2031@aol.com.



sure from the jailer. They settled for a week, with time for Nelson to walk out of prison in his own magnanimous style and forgiving humility, paving the road toward unimaginable reconciliation in a culture mired in the scars of divisiveness and discord. Mandela did not walk out to freedom; Mandela was already free when he walked out of his prison door!

Barack Hussein Obama, half-Kenyan, the first Afro-American President of a country that also has its history of racial segregation, sat in the stands at the Soweto memorial service, a living example of one influenced by Mandela's political expression of his freedom.

Gandhi used "salt" to rally South Asia against the British Empire; MLK Jr. got mileage out of having a dream, a concrete one for himself, his children, and America, to be free at last! Mandela took sports to mellow the Afrikaners' resistance to change and calm the reflexive lust for retribution from oppressed parties.

In the 2009 movie *Invictus*, Matt Damon plays the Springboks rugby team captain Francois Pienaar, and Morgan Freeman, Mandela, the beleaguered first black President of a nation only a year old in office challenged by rampant poverty and crime. He noticed his black constituency cheered for the opposing team when South Africa played England. Mandela refused to be defeated. On the way to hosting the 1995 World Cup, Mandela and Pienaar got the home crowd on its side, and triumphed over their traditional rivals, the All Blacks of New Zealand, in the Cup's final. The movie is a great Francois-in-Wonderland story. It also happens to be true.

Freeman comments on Mandela's death: "As we remember his triumphs, let us, in his memory, not just reflect on how far we've come, but on how far we have to go. Madiba may no longer be with us, but his journey continues on with me and with all of us." Quite to the point. As we bid the Xhosa bushman *adieu*, it is not his freedom that is at stake. Ours is.

Free Mandela happened even before our picayune efforts to get him out of prison was successful. F.W. get the statesman awards he deserves, but Mandela has the open field of the fresh air of freedom all to his own. He walks and flies with angels, to use an earlier metaphor. "Let freedom reign," he said. "The sun never set on so glorious a human achievement." We invite you to say, Amen!

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Slob 2.1

I kicked off the holiday season in the travel mode. So I can tell you, with consummate authority, that all roads lead to my plate. Meanwhile, whether traveling or not, the rhythm of the holidays seems to march to the drumbeat of food. Egads, at this rate I won't be able to fit into my skinny jeans by New Year.

Hey, I'm not the only one. Many people are keeping a wary eye on their belt notches. The battle of the bulge is a perennial topic but the holidays sure do amplify things.

I never try to sell anyone, least of all myself, on having any good habits, so you know you'll never get any finger-wagging from me. I just want to get maximum mileage out of my bad habits.

So I keep in mind, like any experienced navigator, that it's more effective to make a few little corrections early in the game than to make big corrections later on. Toward this end, I'm embarking on an experiment called Slob 2.1, an update to my Slob 2.0 regimen.

The Slob 2.0 approach rolled along about six months ago, and I mentioned it in this space on June 14. The approach was to cut French fries and sugary soda out of the picture. Simple? Sure.

Having made this small course correction, as the holidays loomed closer, I wondered if I could make some other course corrections just for the heck of it.

Slob 2.1 merely adds some more useless and unhealthy fare to the list of stuff I'll avoid, including, notably, the panoply of junk food and sweets we're all tempted to reach for. None of this fare is important; all of it is frivolous.

I never considered what a habit snacking can become until I was a corporate executive. The vice president of administration got fired, and instead of hiring another one they just stapled the entire administrative department beneath my name, further proving that nothing

good ever happens on Mondays.

Anyway, in the following months, as I'd tend those new responsibilities, I began to notice that many of the clerks were eating all day long.

One enterprising lady came by the building twice a day, once mid-morning, and once mid-afternoon, going floor to floor selling snacks from a large ice chest on wheels. I noticed that she was assiduous about maintaining a reliable schedule, and she did a great business giving the office workers a regular junk food fix twice a day.

I think the regular schedule helped cement the routine in the minds of the workers until it became such a habit they didn't even notice it.

Oh, but I did. Not that I was some sort of observational genius, but by pure randomness I stumbled across the phenomenon that during a few meetings, many clerks suddenly appeared fidgety and distressed for no apparent reason. I mentioned this to one of my pals, a far older and more experienced manager than I was at the time, and he's the one who clued me into the fact that those meetings were keeping the clerks from their regular snack times.

My theory, which might be totally wrong, is the disappointment in missing an anticipated snack was more painful than the act of actually eating the snack was pleasurable.

For example, if you give someone a soda and a candy bar, it might be a nice gesture, but it's not that big of a gift. On the other hand, if you take away someone's soda and candy bar, they might really register a sense of loss.

In terms that an economist would use, the loss of utility by missing a snack seems to exceed the gain in utility by eating it.

Which might be one reason that some habits, once acquired, can

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.



be so hard to break. It's not that the habit itself is so fun (Is eating a bag of potato chips really so fun?), it's that denying the indulgence, once the specter presents itself and the indulgence is expected, can be disproportionately unpleasant.

I suspect that we all have little clerical departments in our heads, departments that have fallen into regular habits that we won't even be aware of until we say "no."

And, bringing this point home, these habits can add up. A rule of thumb I've seen is that if you change your intake of calories by 500 per day, this will result in changing your weight by about one pound a week. Well, that's no big deal on its own, until we consider that one pound a week adds up to 52 pounds in a year. I'm taking this rule of thumb at face value; I hadn't audited it, and I don't care to, since if it's even in the ballpark it's sufficiently instructive.

Such is the big idea behind Slob 2.1, which is, in summary, my concept to loosen up for the holidays without having to loosen my belt as a consequence. Ending the year on this note might be a good way to start the next one, but, for now, we'll just have to wait and see.

Widespread apathy in SNAP Isles

Leadership paralysis: You try to make sense of the widespread apathy among the elected elite caught doing fuzzy math on the deepening economic mess at home. Einstein calls it "insanity"—juggling the same numbers hoping for different results—only to find the same derivatives all over again. It's dysfunction all over.

Next year's Christmas presents are already on the truck slated for delivery. It includes spikes on health premiums (45 percent), deductibles and medication (45 percent); increases in power bills, basic goods, gasoline, as salaries remain zero for the unemployed and stagnant for the underemployed. You need not sing *Silent Night* to gauge the angst of tired folks who could no longer navigate hardship in the villages. It's a sad narrative all the way around treated with inconsequence by Da Boys.

The way forward is simple and resides in a single term—"leadership." But this trait has sadly morphed into "followership." So we follow the flock of goats headed toward the bankruptcy cliff to see what's downstairs. Would a spindly *tañgan tañgan* root save the day or hasten the involuntary dive into oblivion?

The high cost of utilities rightfully belongs in the court of leadership. But most are dazed thus the persistent paralysis to do anything decisive. The local government can't pay its \$19 million CUC utility bills, scrambling for funds to meet paying the remittance under the retirement settlement agreement (pension obligation loan) and other big ticket items like health and education. It's incurring a huge debt to pay a huge debt that piles up into a mountain of debts. Not very encouraging, is it?

Moreover, the impending skyrocketing increases combined with pension cut only bleeds the family pocketbooks. With hardship in every corner, is there hope for meaningful help ahead or do we prepare to endure more leadership paralysis? The vacuity of the voice of complacency that isn't ready to lead our people to economic freedom and opportunities is deafeningly humiliating.

Retirement? Most elected officials wanted this program dead and so they slowly saddled it with more obligations to bleed it to

death. DB and DC members have withdrawn their contributions quizzing, "What now?" Save your contributions as much as you can. No one is exempted from old age and the cost of healthcare when you head into the sunset. It's a costly expense. I'm a living example of it who had to navigate a reduced pension pay and social security. No fun!

Social safety net: The decision to suspend 130 NAP recipients of food assistance for failing to find jobs is timely. This form of assistance is just a temporary pit stop until recipients find jobs to remain productive members of the community. Treating NAP as a permanent backstop is a lazy boy's way out. Staying active and productive is a cultural pride since time immemorial.

Policy instability: In 1974, we voted by 78-plus percent for the Covenant Agreement. We were ready to embrace all that our great country stands for since 236 years ago.

Today, we vent frustrations emanating from paternalism to disparage the agreement, however a permanent arrangement. Woe! We shift gear quite instantly too, confirming that our attitude is as erratic as the weather. How do we buckle down to setting forth lasting and stable policies?

We know policies need major overhaul to reset our button on investments. But we treat such responsibility with a 10-foot pole, unsure where to begin. This complacency as the quality of life in the villages descends into the abyss of more misery. Troubling!

Plebiscite: When citizens place an issue on the ballot for disposition—plebiscite—it's a clear expression of distrust in the Legislature's ability to decide on issues with any sense of equilibrium. Thus it picks it up and rallies the rest of the community to vote for or against it. The electorate voted twice against casino, a decision glossed over by our half-cocked men of wisdom in the Legislature.

What is it in the public mandate you didn't understand in the simple word "NO?" Why is it that some of you are asking opponents to present better alternatives to casino? Your turning into political dinosaurs speaks volumes why you've ignored preparing a fully thought-out socioeconomic plan to move the needle forward. You

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



only showed how well you've honed your instant soba mindset. Have you voluntarily fossilized your nimble mind?

Looking ahead: Indeed, an island economy is as simple as it is complex. Simple if traditional farming remains the means of family support in this archipelago. For centuries, our ancestors have learned to live with a resource-poor group of islands, farming and fishing.

We've moved away from subsistence farming and fishing, especially after World War II by working for the service industry in both sectors—private and public. Herein lies the complexity of life on the islands, where the means of traditional food production has slowly faded into the ash heap of history. We no longer farm but rely on the fickle tourism industry as the Holy Grail of funds for jobs and services.

Interesting that when the economy tanks significantly, we return to farming and fishing to supplement dietary needs, cushioned by food assistance from NAP. Life has turned into real misery, forcing hundreds of families to relocate elsewhere. Can't pin down negligence locally that triggered the exodus of foreign capital (investments) from the NMI. Policies?

This as mediocrity sinks all boats. We ask: so what's in our future? Well, your legislators are out exploring the golden skies and spanning the globe, completely ignoring that their government is broke! Isn't this a vicious form of anarchy prompted by more negligence from leadership?

PAPERLESS

From Page 10

lion sheets of paper, an amount equal to about 400 sheets for every person in the United States.

That's just in the official bureaucracy. A broader set of figures, compiled by International Data Corp. and released in July, reports that worldwide volume from digital hard-copy devices in 2012 totaled 2.98 trillion pages, down slightly from 2011, but sufficient to cover the surface area of New York City 237 times. And the average American, according to the American Forest and Paper Association, uses more than 748 pounds of paper a year.

In the simplest of terms, paper is a composite of water and pulverized cellulose fragments screened through a sieve and dried. But the Chinese, who introduced paper to the world some 2,000 years ago, regarded it as one of their outstanding inventions, and the world seemed to agree.

When Marco Polo returned from the Far East late in the 13th century—about the same time some of the earliest mills in Europe were being established at Fabriano and Amalfi in his native Italy—the Venetian traveler spoke enthusiastically about how the great Kublai Khan had mandated the use of paper currency throughout his realm. Elsewhere in his travels, Polo marveled that the Chinese made certain articles of clothing from paper and used it to fashion offerings

to be burned at Buddhist shrines.

For more than 200 years, paper was the most efficient way to bundle gunpowder and a projectile into one compact cartridge, and its use as a wrapper for the "evil weed"—tobacco—has had consequences that continue to resonate.






Surprisingly strong and resilient, its portability made possible the modern bureaucracy; it can be folded every which way, and when used as an absorbent, it serves a plenitude of hygienic purposes—yet another Chinese idea.

The 21st century may well prove to be the digital century, but it seems misguided to set the obituary of paper down in cold type. Not just yet, in any case.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Palau	Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲ 91 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79

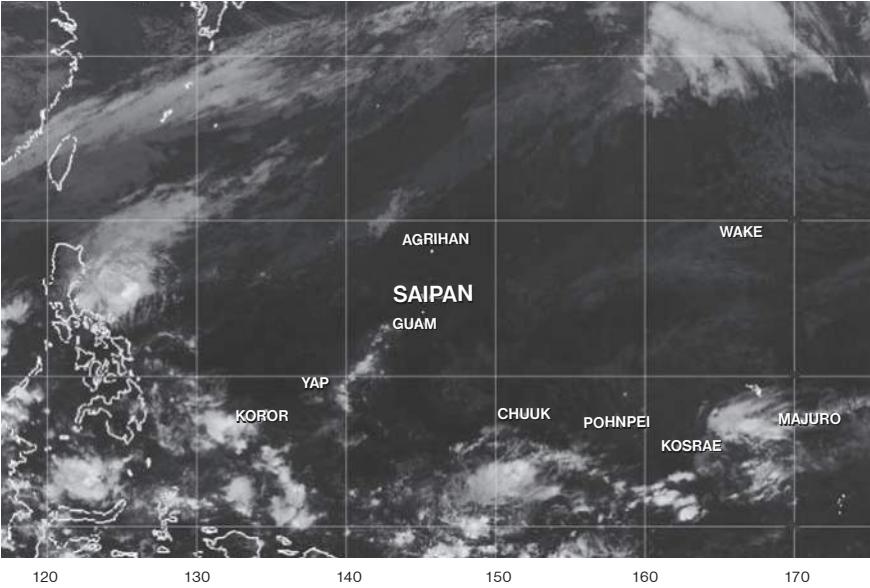
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 60
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 39 ▼ 18
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 65
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 70
London	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 44
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 54
Miami	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 69
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 27 ▼ 19
Osaka	Showers	▲ 50 ▼ 38
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 39
Pusan	Windy	▲ 45 ▼ 33
Rome	Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 41
Salem	Showers	▲ 43 ▼ 38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 44
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 29 ▼ 25
Tokyo	Windy	▲ 57 ▼ 37
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 31 ▼ 25

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:31 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
4:14 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:40 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from west of Minami Tori Shima at 25N153E to 20N144E then continues through 130E at 15N as a shear line. Patchy clouds and rain are found along and up to 275 miles northwest of this boundary. Trade-wind disturbances are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in three different areas. The first is just west of Guam within 90 miles of a line from 9N141E to 13N143E, the second is southwest of Koror south of a line from 10N130E to 2N139E and the third is between Kosrae and Kwajalein within 175 miles of a line from 2N167E to 9N167E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk between 1N and 5N from 147E to 155E. A surface trough extends northward from 1N179E to 7N180. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present east of Majuro east of a line from 9N177E to 5N174E to beyond the date line.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	5:49 PM
Sunday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Monday	6:36 AM	5:49 PM
Tuesday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:42 PM	2:46 AM
Saturday	3:27 PM	3:37 AM
Sunday	4:13 PM	4:29 AM
Monday	5:00 PM	5:20 AM
Tuesday	5:49 PM	6:09 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR) DL287 6:05am 11:25pm 2, 6 via NRT	PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN DL298 4:35am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 OZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:05am 10:30pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:40am 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Common hope, peace, justice, and opportunity for all

By GLENN H. MANGLONA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The buzz in the villages started this year when the national immigration reform bill, S. 744, was passed by the U.S. Senate by a vote of 68-32 on June 27.

This bill has provisions that provide for a pathway to citizenship for many foreign workers in the CNMI. According to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, "include allowing long-time CNMI residents to remain on the islands" to work here, travel in and out, and after five years apply to become U.S. permanent residents. If S. 744 passes the House with the CNMI provision still intact, that would allow long-term foreigners to apply for a CNMI-only status within months of the bill's enactment."

Those covered include legal foreign workers who have been in the CNMI since at least 2003, and those with U.S. citizen children. After an additional five-year waiting period, these aliens can start applying for U.S. permanent residence status, the "green card," a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

According to Section 2109 of S.744, there are six groups of aliens eligible to apply for a CNMI-only permanent resident status within months of S. 744's enactment into law, should the House approve it. First group: Those persons born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974, and Jan. 9, 1978. Second group: Those persons granted CNMI permanent resident status under CNMI immigration law. Third group: A spouse or child of the first and second groups. Fourth group: The immediate family members of U.S. citizens, regardless of age. Fifth group: Foreign workers in the CNMI that were admitted under CNMI immigration law five years prior to May 8, 2008, and are presently resident under CW-1 status. Sixth group: The spouse and children of individuals in the fifth group.

Inos administration supports Section 2109

According to news reports, Gov. Eloy S. Inos reiterated his support for this provision in S. 744 granting a pathway to improved status for long-term aliens in the CNMI. He also believes that the CNMI-specific provision does not violate the Covenant.

Inos said, "To me, when we signed the Covenant [with the United States], we essentially gave up the immigration."

The CNMI fears that without an extension of the CW program, the local tourism-based economy would collapse because the islands still lack enough U.S. workers to take over the jobs held by over 12,000 skilled, professional foreign workers.

Chamber backs Section 2109

Based on news reports, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business group in the CNMI, reiterated its support for Delegate Sablan's efforts to help provide improved immigration status to long-term legal aliens "because it's the right thing to do." The Chamber also supports efforts to train and employ U.S. workers, partnering with government and private entities to make this happen.

Chamber president Alex Sablan, in his message to members, said the Chamber continues to hope that initiatives will be implemented that will truly develop training, certification and/or degree programs relevant to the CNMI business community's

needs, particularly tourism.

He said there will be potentially 1,200 to 1,500 additional hotel rooms in the next two to four years "and a local workforce ill-prepared to enter this market."

"While it is a current necessity, our hotel industry is training in-house to meet their most immediate needs but this is not and should not be the case in the CNMI," Sablan said.

The Chamber president also talked about these foreign workers' lasting relationships with community members—as best friends, friends, husbands, and wives.

"For these and many more reasons, the board of directors and many in the membership continue to support Congressman Kilili's effort to provide for a CNMI permanent resident status for these individuals because it's the right thing to do," Sablan added.

Ogumoro resolution opposes Section 2109

On Nov. 15, 2013, the CNMI House of Representatives adopted Resolution 18-34 expressing disapproval of Section 2109 of S. 744. Ogumoro opposes Section 2109 because she believes that granting permanent resident status and U.S. citizenship to these foreigners in the CNMI violates the right of the indigenous people (Chamorro and Carolinians) to self-government under Sections 103 and 105 of Article I of the CNMI Covenant, which is U.S. Public Law 94-241.

A Marianas Agupa analysis

The U.S. government's control over immigration in the CNMI was established in Title VII of U.S. Public Law 110-229. Rep. Ogumoro and others have argued that this part of Title VII violates the right of the people of the CNMI to self-government under Sections 103 and 105 of Article I of the Covenant. However, Section 503 and 503(a) of the Covenant state that "the immigration and naturalization laws of the United States... will not apply to the Northern Mariana Islands *except* in the manner and to the extent made applicable to them by the Congress by law after termination of the Trusteeship Agreement." Whether or not Section 503 and 503(a) are in conflict with Sections 103 and 105 is a matter of statutory interpretation. Two legal rules of statutory interpretation are (1) Courts will, if possible, interpret provisions of a law so that they are not in conflict, and (2) If nevertheless provisions of a law are in conflict, a specific or a more specific provision takes precedence over a general provision, because the specific provision better indicates the intent of the Legislature that enacted this law. Section 503 and 503(a) are specific; Sections 103 and 105 are general. Thus, the immigration part of Title VII does not violate the Covenant. In fact, this part of Title VII is specifically authorized by the Covenant.

Rep. Ogumoro's position on Sections 103 and 105 in relation to Section 2109 in the immigration reform bill is much broader than the legal arguments as discussed in the preceding paragraph. Section

See **COMMON** on Next Page

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COMMON

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103 states that “The people of the Northern Mariana Islands will have the right of local self-government and will govern themselves with respect to internal affairs in accordance with a Constitution of their own adoption.” Section 105 states in part that “In order to respect the right of self-government guaranteed by this Covenant, ... the fundamental provisions of this Covenant, namely Articles I, II and III and Sections 501 and 805, may be modified only with the consent of the government of the United States and the government of the Northern Mariana Islands.”

The phrase “the people of the Northern Mariana Islands” appears a number of times in the Covenant. The issue is what is meant by the phrase “the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.” Does this phrase mean the people of Northern Mariana Islands descent (the indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians), or does it mean all the people in the CNMI, and in the case of the right to self-government, all of the legal voters in the CNMI, regardless of their ethnicity or ancestry? In her speech in the CNMI House of Representatives on Sept. 12, Rep. Ogumoro advocated the first interpretation that is stated in the previous sentence. She said that “If passed, Section 2109 of Senate Bill 744 will have a devastating effect on the Chamorros and Carolinians of Northern Marianas descent, who have always aspired to maintain their autonomy and be self-governing, a right that is guaranteed and protected under the Covenant. ... They will lose control of that right to govern themselves, becoming marginalized in the process.”

There is only one right to self-government granted in the Covenant. The Covenant does not grant one right of self-government to the indigenous people in the CNMI and another right of self-government to all the other people in the CNMI.

At the time of the enactment into law of the Covenant in 1975 and 1976, the people of the CNMI were mostly indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians. Thus, in the Covenant there are at least two occurrences of the phrase “the people of the Northern Mariana Islands” that can only mean the indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians, but these two phrases refer specifically to the indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians at the time that the Covenant was signed in February 1975, not to indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians during the entire period of time that the Covenant will be in effect. These two provisions are Section 805 and Section 1001(a).

Section 805 states in part, “in view of the importance of the ownership of land for the culture and traditions of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands...” The “culture and traditions” referred

to here are the culture and traditions of the people as of February 1975. The writers of the Covenant could not predict with certainty whether ownership of land would in the future remain important in the culture and traditions of the people.

Section 1001(a) states in part that “this Covenant will be submitted to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands for approval in a plebiscite to be called by the United States.” This plebiscite was held in June 1975. At this time, the voters in the plebiscite were mostly indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians, as was the population of the Northern Mariana Islands at that time.

Section 805(a) of the Covenant requires that, for 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, the CNMI government must “regulate the alienation of permanent and long-term interests in real property so as to restrict the acquisition of such interests to persons of Northern Mariana Islands descent.” Section 805(a) authorizes the CNMI government to continue these restrictions after the end of this 25-year period, if it so chooses. Note that in extending this right to indigenous people only, Section 805(a) used the phrase “persons of Northern Mariana Islands descent.” Section 805(a) did not use the phrase “the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.”

Furthermore, Section 805(a) is the only instance in the Covenant that uses the phrase “persons of Northern Mariana Islands descent” or similar language. This implies that, if the writers of the Covenant had intended to restrict certain rights, such as the right to self-government, to persons of Northern Mariana Islands descent only, the writers would have used such restrictive language. The fact that they did not, except in Section 805(a), indicates that they did not intend to apply such restrictions to rights, except in Section 805(a).

There are other parts of the Covenant that support this interpretation of the phrase “the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.” The Preamble of the Covenant states in part that “Whereas, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and the people of the United States share the goals and values found in the American system of government based upon the principles of government by the consent of the governed, individual freedom and democracy.” These goals and values do not include restricting self-government or the right to vote to only persons of certain ethnicities or ancestries or national origins.

If Sections 103 and 105 guarantee the right of self-government to only the indigenous people of the CNMI, then this would mean that only indigenous people could vote in the CNMI, and only indigenous people could hold elected public offices in the CNMI. These restrictions have never appeared in the Covenant or in the CNMI Constitution, the original version of which was written in 1976 and was ratified by the people of the CNMI in 1977.

Section 501 of the Covenant lists a number of specific provisions

of the U.S. Constitution that are applicable to the CNMI. One of these provisions is the Fifteenth Amendment, which forbids denying or abridging (restricting or limiting) the right to vote based on race or color. This prohibits restricting the right to vote to only persons of certain ethnicities or ancestries or national origins.

If the writers of the Covenant had intended to restrict the application of the Fifteenth Amendment so as to deny the right to vote to some or all U.S. citizens who are not indigenous persons, that is, who are not of Northern Mariana Islands descent, this would have been specifically indicated in the Covenant. There are three sections in the Covenant that provide specific exemptions to requirements in the U.S. Constitution, and in each case specifically acknowledge that these exemptions are in conflict with the Constitution. These exemptions are in Sections 203, 501, and 805.

Section 203(c) requires that “the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands will provide for equal representation for each of the chartered municipalities of the Northern Mariana Islands in one house of a bicameral legislature, notwithstanding other provisions of this Covenant or those provisions of the Constitution or laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands.” In accordance with Section 203(c), the CNMI Constitution gives to Saipan, Rota, and Tinian three seats each in the CNMI Senate, despite the fact that 90 percent of the CNMI population resides on Saipan. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Reynolds v. Sims* (1964) that the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment requires that the seats in all houses of all state legislatures must be apportioned on the basis of population. Thus, without the exemption in Section 203(c), the CNMI Senate could not be apportioned the way it is now.

Section 501 provides in part that neither trial by jury nor indictment by a grand jury are required in any civil or criminal case in CNMI courts, except where they are required by CNMI law. These are exemptions to rights in the Sixth and Seventh Amendments in the U.S. Constitution.

Section 805 contains the restrictions on the right to “permanent and long-term interests in real property” that is discussed earlier. This section includes the qualifying condition “notwithstanding the other provisions of this Covenant, or those provisions of the Constitution, treaties or laws of the United States applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands.” Without Section 805, these restrictions would violate the equal protection clause of Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment. Section 501 of the Covenant makes Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment, and other listed parts of the U. S. Constitution, applicable to the CNMI.

The Fifteenth Amendment is basic to the right to self-govern-

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ment. In the case of *Rice v. Cayetano*, 528 U.S. 495 (2000), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that restricting the right to vote to persons of a certain ethnicity or ancestry violates the Fifteenth Amendment. In this case, Article 12 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii allowed only "Hawaiians" to vote in elections for trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Hawaii law defined "Hawaiians" as persons who are descendants of the people who were living in the Hawaiian Islands in 1778. In this case, using language that seems very applicable to the assertion of the right of self-government in the CNMI to indigenous people only, the Supreme Court ruled that voting qualifications or classifications that are based on ancestry can be, and in the situation in Hawaii in this case were, "a proxy for race" (528 U.S. 514). "The State [of Hawaii], in enacting the legislation before us, has used ancestry as a racial definition and for a racial purpose" (528 U.S. 515). "Simply because a class defined by ancestry does not include all members of the race does not suffice to make the classification race neutral" (528 U.S. 516-517). "The State's electoral restriction enacts a race-based voting qualification" (528 U.S. 517). "The State's position rests, in the end, on the demeaning premise that citizens of a particular race are somehow more qualified than others to vote on certain matters. That reasoning attacks the central meaning of the Fifteenth Amendment. ... Race cannot qualify some and disqualify others from full participation in our democracy" (528 U.S. 523). "In this case the Fifteenth Amendment invalidates the electoral qualification based on ancestry" (528 U.S. 524).

The bottom line of Resolution 18-34 is that it expresses the sentiment that "They don't like U.S. citizens. Period." Not even those from California or other U.S. states who are here to work, teach, or do business because they will eventually take over political control from indigenous population. And so what "if" all nonresident foreign workers and all non-indigenous citizens decided to leave? Would the 15,000 Chamorros and Carolinians be able sustain growth? Can we afford to run our economy and provide the necessary goods and services? Would we be able to attend to our healthcare needs? Would we be able to teach our children in public schools? And the list goes on and on.

A proposed compromise

In order to strike a balance in terms of protecting and invoking the Chamorros' and Carolinians' inalienable right to self-government as tribal people and at the same time provide for an improved status to those foreign workers who will be eligible under S.744, a proposed solution is discussed below:

We, as Chamorros and Carolinians who are NMDs, should instead be asking the U.S. Congress to designate us, Chamorros and Carolinians, as a tribal community similar to those of the American Indians. That way, we can request to have certain public lands on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota be designated exclusively under the control of NMDs. This can include the islands of Pagan, Alamagan or other Northern Islands to be made available for NMDs. And we can use our MPLT trust funds for development of these areas for the benefit of all NMDs only. We can self-govern our own without U.S. intervention and have our NMD government. We could also

reap benefits afforded to the Native American Indian tribes such as being exempted from the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate and entitlements such as the tribal educational assistance program.

The reason for Delegate Killili's assertion that Chamorros and Carolinians are not eligible for programs that benefit Native Americans is because he was following the advice of the U.S. Congressional Research. The U.S. Congressional Research's advice is wrong. The Covenant already declares Chamorro and Carolinian islanders to be like the American Indians; that is why the Covenant held the lands in trust, established 25-year trust provisions, and allowed for persons to select to remain nationals but not citizens of the U.S. Those are all provisions only available where the U.S. by right of conquest over native peoples enjoyed duties as a trustee, exactly the same as with all the American Indians. As a matter of fact, the Land Grant Program that benefits the students at the Northern Marianas College was only made available under the definition of a tribal community.

In *Elk v. Wilkins* and *US ex rel Standing Bear*, the Supreme Court held that Indians are people and have inalienable human rights, such as all people do, and the right of expatriation is an inalienable one, essential to the rights of liberty and self-determination. So Chamorros and Carolinians have a right to leave their nation, expatriate, and become Japanese, American, whatever, but expatriation must be knowing in order to be voluntary, and must be voluntary and consensual to be effective. The Covenant declares all persons born in the CNMI to be equally U.S. citizens. That is fine, nobody objects to Chamorros and Carolinians to be equal U.S. citizens. The prob-

lem is that the U.S. Supreme Court, with respect to the U.S. Virgin Islands' Constitution and Native Lands Acts and the like in *Rice v. Cayetano*, has said that Americans citizens are all equal Americans, so equal protection means the government cannot establish a race-based or culture-based differentiated treatment of our U.S. citizens. But the Constitution says there are Indians. The Supreme Court has said that Indians are not citizens of the U.S. but are citizens of their Indian nations, and are nationals of the U.S., for whom the US owes duties of protection. That case is *Elk v. Wilkins*. But that case recognized the right of Indians to expatriate and leave their nation. This is why the U.S. required Chamorros and Carolinians to choose under Section 302 of the Covenant whether to retain their inherent native nationality as Chamorros or Carolinians, and be national but not citizens of the U.S., and this was to be an individual personal decision decided upon by each Chamorro and Carolinian. But the U.S. forgot to tell any Chamorro or Carolinian about this, and what it meant, and that it could mean they are no longer legally Chamorro or Carolinian. Yet the Covenant also says land will be held in trust for persons of native Northern Mariana Islands descent. But the Covenant itself does not define what the term "persons of native Northern Mariana Islands descent" means, so we can argue that native Northern Mariana Islands descent could follow the parents, so that as long as one's parents were native to the Northern Mariana Islands, the person is of native Northern Mariana Islands descent, even if born in Honolulu or Timbuktu.

If the U.S. intends that there are no longer Chamorro or Carolin-

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Man who allegedly beat up wife found in possession of 'ice'

Police arrested a 37-year-old man who allegedly choked and punched his common-law wife in front of their 2-year-old son on Monday. He was also allegedly found in possession of methamphetamine or "ice."

Anthony S. Camacho was arrested for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

At his bail hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$500 cash and \$4,500 unsecured bond for Camacho's temporary release.

Meanwhile, police detective Jesse K. Seman disclosed in his

report that Raena M. San Nicolas was also arrested after police officers found a .22 long range rifle, .22 ammunition, and marijuana from a car she was driving. The car reportedly belongs to Camacho.

Seman said the Department of Public Safety received a call from Camacho's common-law wife on Monday at 12:12pm, reporting a disturbance. The alleged victim told a responding police officer that Camacho grabbed her ear and pulled her into their apartment, choked her, and punched her several times in the body.

The beating allegedly occurred in front of their son.

The alleged victim told po-

lice that it was not the first time that Camacho beat her up and that she couldn't remember the many times he had subjected her to physical abuse.

She also alleged that Camacho took her laptop, \$200 cash, cell phone, and two silver bracelets worth \$240 and left their apartment.

She told police that Camacho could be found at the Summer Holiday Motel in Garapan or at poker rooms in Garapan and Tanapag. She said he was in possession of a rifle and described the car he was driving.

While a detective was interviewing the alleged victim, Camacho called her on their

house's phone three times, telling her he was going to kill himself.

Police immediately issued an all-points bulletin for Camacho's vehicle. Officers later found the vehicle parked at Summer Holiday Motel.

When the car left, detectives tailed it until it stopped at the Gualo Rai gas station. The officers approached and found San Nicolas driving the vehicle. San Nicolas denied knowing the whereabouts of Camacho and consented to a search of the car. Officers allegedly found the rifle, ammunition, and marijuana in the car.

San Nicolas was arrested for illegal possession of firearm,

ammunition, and controlled substance. It was not clear whether she was later released as she has yet to be taken to court.

Detectives later knocked on the door of the room at the motel registered under the name of San Nicolas. When no one answered, the maintenance of the motel opened the door with their extra key.

Camacho was found inside the room and was arrested. Police allegedly found from Camacho's waist pouch a substance that tested presumptive positive for "ice." The amount of the "ice" was not indicated in the report. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

COMMON

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ian peoples as a nation solely because the people have expatriated themselves from inherent nationality under Section 302 of the Covenant, by their failure to retain inherent native nationality, we believe that the contrived knowing acts of the U.S. to deceive the native persons of the Northern Mariana Islands does in fact constitute an act of cultural genocide by the U.S. designed to exterminate the Northern Marianas Chamorros and Carolinians as tribal peoples, converting them into purportedly voluntary U.S. citizens only. The 25-year land trust provision could be seen as a temporary phasing out of aboriginal title as the native people develop their U.S. citizenship. Hence the Covenant intends to destroy the aboriginal title of the Northern Marianas Chamorros and Carolinians, and native nationality. Hence the Covenant constitutes an act of bad faith against the native peoples of the Northern Marianas, which the U.S. and U.N. have admitted to be peoples entitled to right to self-determination (hence possessed of at least inchoate sovereignty). So the Chamorros and Carolinians cannot be tricked into covenanting away their land and nation and ultimately their identity in exchange for becoming solely U.S. citizens like every other Tom, Dick and Harry, but they surely have the right to covenant away their land and nation... the right of expatriation.

What is the difference between U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals? According to Immigration Help, all U.S. citizens are U.S. nationals. But there are some who are U.S. nationals but not U.S. citizens. The definition of U.S. nationals is a person born in or having ties with "an outlying possession of the United States" which is, as of 2005, only American Samoa and Swains Island. It also includes individuals born abroad to two U.S. national parents or those born abroad to one alien parent and one U.S. national parent. Additionally, there is a residency requirement for the parents of the child prior to birth in order to transmit U.S. nationality. In the past, those who were born in Guam from 1898 to 1950, Puerto Rico from 1898 to 1917, the U.S. Virgin Islands from 1917 to 1927, or the Philippines from 1898 to 1946 were U.S. nationals. Now those who are born in Guam and Puerto Rico, and in the CNMI as of 1978 are full U.S. citizens.

The rights of U.S. nationals are as follows: They are allowed to work and reside anywhere in the U.S. without restriction. They are eligible to apply for U.S. passport just like U.S. citizens. In fact, there is no difference between the passport for U.S. nationals and U.S. citizens. Both of them mention the "nationality" USA.

And finally, we asked those who were given the vote of confidence and are privileged to hold an elected public office in the CNMI to explore this proposed solution or any other solution in order to strike a balance—protection of indigenous Chamorros' and Carolinians' right to self-government by invoking our inalienable right that all Chamorros and Carolinians are tribal indigenous people similar to the American Indians and, at the same time, allow the natural progression of life for those seeking improved status in the CNMI.

Just recently, during the memorial service for the late Nelson Mandela, President Obama said, "There are too many leaders who claim solidarity with Madiba's struggle for freedom, but do not tolerate dissent from their own people. And there are too many of us who stand on the sidelines, comfortable in complacency or cynicism when our voices must be heard."

"The questions we face today—how to promote equality and justice, to uphold freedom and human rights, to end conflict and sectarian war—do not have easy answers. But there were no easy answers in front of that child in Qunu. Nelson Mandela reminds us that it always seems impossible until it is done. South Africa shows us that is true. South Africa shows us we can change. We can choose to live in a world defined not by our differences, but by our common hopes. We can choose a world defined not by conflict, but by peace and justice and opportunity."

Glenn H. Manglona is host of the Chamorro radio talk show, Marianas Agupa.

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COCA-COLA 'OPEN A SEASON OF HAPPINESS' PROMO

Last-minute purchase wins Rabago a netbook

The last-minute decision of Melanie Rabago to purchase a 12-can pack of Coca-Cola paid off when she won the top prize at the first drawing of the Coca-Cola holiday promotion, "Open a Season of Happiness." Rabago, 44, is a resident of Fina Sisu. She is married to Mark Rabago, associate editor of the *Saipan Tribune*.

"That was my first win in any lottery that I've joined," Rabago said. "Actually, it was my oldest daughter, Maxine, who wanted to join. She was very happy when I won that she posted the prize on Facebook. She's the one who uses the netbook most of the time." Maxine, 10, is a 5th grade stu-

dent at San Vicente Elementary School.

Other winners include John White and Rita Omar who each won a \$50 Regal Cinemas theater card that can be used to purchase movie tickets and/or food and beverage. One \$52 gas voucher each went to Marino Torrerros and UnJoo Lee.

The second drawing for Coca-Cola's "Open a Season of Happiness" promo is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 13, 2013, at Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center in Garapan from 5pm to 7pm. Prizes at stake include an Xbox Kinect and more theater gift cards and gas vouchers.

Coca-Cola will be giving away a limited edition "Since

1886" T-shirt to the first 25 purchases of any Coca-Cola 12 pack. The company will also conduct a free sampling of Fuze Strawberry Iced Tea at the drawing. *(Coca-Cola)*

Melanie Rabago's last-minute decision to purchase a Coca-Cola 12 pack, won her an Acer Notebook at the first drawing of Coca-Cola's "Open a Season of Happiness" holiday promotion. Rusty M. Loyola, left, operations manager, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc. presents the netbook to Rabago, right, and to her two daughters, Maxine, 10 and Kyla, 6 at the awards ceremony at the Coca-Cola offices in Chalan Laulau.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Bangladesh community to mark Victory Day

The Bangladesh community on Saipan will celebrate their country's Victory Day on Dec. 16, Monday, at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater, from 6:30pm to 10pm. There will be a program that will feature songs, dances, and other performances.

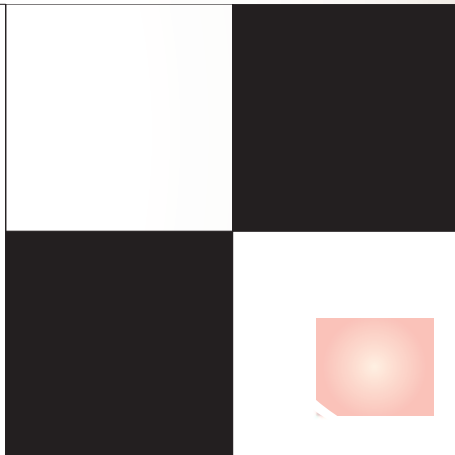
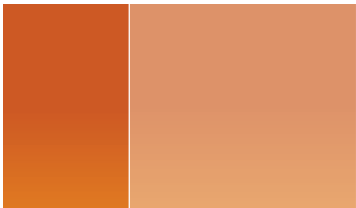
After 10pm, there will be a get-together at the Micro Beach Pavilion, behind Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

The event is being sponsored by Toha Supermarket and Asia Marine Sports. Helping organize this event are secretary Habib Ullah Badal, coordinator Zahidul Islam, and Tarun.

According to Wikipedia, Victory Day is a national holiday in Bangladesh celebrated on Dec. 16 to commemorate the victory of the Allied Forces High Command over the Pakistani forces in the Bangladesh Liberation War in

1971. The commanding officer of the Pakistani Forces, Gen. AAK Niazi, surrendered his forces to Allied Forces commander Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora, which ended the nine-monthlong Bangladesh Liberation War and official secession of East Pakistan into Bangladesh.

For more information, contact Bangladesh Cultural Group president Rakibul Islam Mintu at 483-4448. *(PR)*



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Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

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Secondary Applicant

First Name: _____ M.I. ____ Last Name: _____

Employer: _____ Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you: _____
Best Time To Call Best Number To Call

Mailing Address: Street/Box _____ Village _____ Zip Code _____

2 CNMI students win in bank's 2014 calendar contest

» St. John's Junior Kent Velesrubio claims cover photo prize

HAGATNA, Guam—Two CNMI students were named yesterday as among the 13 winners of the Bank of Guam's 10th annual Calendar Photography Contest.

They are Joseph Masga Mendiola Jr., an 11th grade student of Tinian High School, and Kody Palacios, a 12th grade student of Saipan Southern High School.

The contest garnered over 130 entries with the theme, "Native Wildlife: Land and Sea."



From left, student winners Gabby Paynter, Maria Philomena B. Silvestre, Sarah Gregson, Natasha Hagans, Ashley Hope Pama Castro, Rita Barcinas, Tomas Garcia, and Bank of Guam president, chief executive officer, and board chair Lou A. Leon Guerrero at the Dec. 10, 2013, presentation.

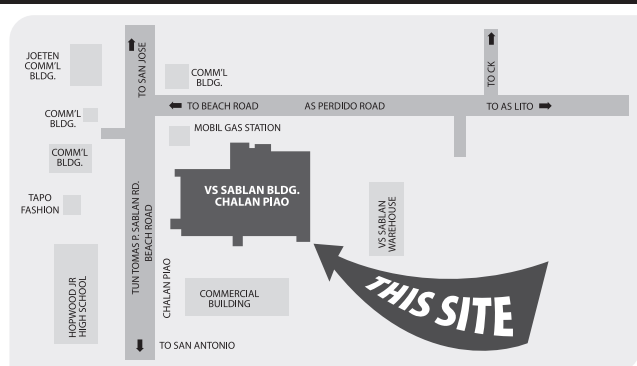
The following are the list of winners:

- **Cover photo winner:** Kent Velesrubio, St. John's School, 11th Grade
- **January winner:** Natasha Hagans, Academy of Our Lady of Guam, 11th Grade
- **February winner:** Peter Pereda, Notre Dame High School, 12th Grade
- **March winner:** Ashley Hope Pama Castro, George Washington High School, 12th Grade
- **April winner:** Tomas Garcia, Notre Dame High School, 12th Grade
- **May winner:** Sarah Gregson, Home School (Guam), 9th Grade
- **June winner:** Rita Barcinas, George Washington High School, 12th Grade
- **July winner:** Joseph Masga Mendiola Jr., Tinian High School (CNMI), 11th Grade
- **August winner:** Camille Eunice R. Joya, George Washington High School, 12th Grade
- **September winner:** Gabby Paynter, St. John's School, 10th Grade
- **October winner:** Polene Manibusan, George Washington High School, 12th Grade
- **November winner:** Maria Philomena B. Silvestre, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, 9th Grade
- **December winner:** Kody Palacios, Saipan Southern High School (CNMI), 12th Grade.

The cover photo winner was awarded a \$250 prize, and the winners of the 12-month categories were presented with \$150 prizes.

Bank of Guam annually prints 25,000 complimentary copies of its calendar, which is available to bank customers through its 23 branches. **(BOG)**

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Units on the **Second Floor** are also available at 50¢ per square foot.

At **Our Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA** we have rental space available on the **first floor** now at **65 cents per square foot** for units ranging from 541 sq. ft. to 1400 sq. ft.

Large 4500 square foot space on the **second floor** that would be ideal for a Daycare Center, Dance Studio or Gym at **35¢ per square foot.**

Second Floor - Office Space, 900 sq.ft. to 1,400 sq. ft. at 50¢ per square foot.

2nd Floor Office Space (1 Unit) Available at Chalan Kanoa, Above Bank of Saipan - 800 Sq ft per unit at 65 cents per square foot.

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Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-2454 Email Address: vicente_sablan@yahoo.com) or Call 234-2585.

Health advisory for the rainy season

The Commonwealth Health-care Corp.'s Bureau of Environmental Health advises the public to follow preventive guidelines to protect them from insect- and rodent-related in-

fection and bacterial infection.

▲ **Avoid lowland and inland swimming holes.** These areas are likely to contain harmful bacteria levels and can pose other health risks to people who use them frequently. Avoid standing water that is stagnant.

▲ **Remove all artificial breeding areas for mosquitoes and rodents.** Avoid standing water or pools of water anywhere, and remove them if possible. Stagnant pools of water serve as breeding areas for disease-carrying mosquitoes, insects, and rodents. Remove and dispose old tires, opened bottles, and used cans to prevent harborage. Clean up yards to remove food, breeding, and hiding spots for rodents, insects and mosquitoes.

▲ **Wear protective clothing in the early morning and at sundown.** Most mosquitoes bite during early morning and evening hours. Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts during this period when outside.

▲ **Practice proper hygiene regularly.** As always, wash hands frequently and cover body wounds properly.

This information will help the community to protect themselves from harmful illness and infection. If a family member is experiencing fever with headaches, rash, or flu-like symptoms, contact or see your private physician.

BEH also offers advice on how to avoid mosquito breeding areas and how to properly remove harborage areas from your premises. Should you have further questions or concerns, visit BEH office on Navy Hill or contact 664-4870/72. **(BEH)**

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†IRENE BORJA

Saipan Ice & Water will be CLOSED on Friday, December 13, 2013 from 8:00 AM – 12NOON to attend the Mass of Christian Burial at Santuario Pax Memorial Gardens in Kagman.

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Deliveries will resume at 1:00PM on Friday, December 13th.
Please call in advance for all your water needs.
For orders call: 322-6130/9455/9848



SAIPAN ICE & WATER CO., INC.

MIFICPA officers inducted

The Marianas Institute of Filipino Certified Public Accountants, MIFICPA, inducted its newly elected officers and board of directors on Dec. 7, 2013, at the Sunshine Garden Restaurant at Susupe. One of its founding members, Jun Banadera, was the inducting officer.

MIFICPA is the organization of Filipino certified public accountants in the CNMI. It aims to provide the necessary means of uplifting and improving the standard of proficiency of Filipino CPAs in the CNMI. It also seeks to promote brotherhood among Filipino CPAs working in the CNMI.

The organization's activities include providing accounting and tax trainings to various individuals and institutions.

The organization was founded in 1994 and will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2014.

The new officers are Olive Aninon, president; Eloisa Agustin, Vice President – Internal; Aileen Indino, Vice President – External; Elisa dela Pacion, Secretary; Angie Mamaril, Assistant Secretary; Bebielyn Harris, Treasurer; Evelyn Armia, Assistant Treasurer; Cris Bucalig, Public Relations Officer; Efren



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The newly inducted officers and board of directors of the Marianas Institute of Filipino Certified Public Accountants, MIFICPA, have their picture taken after their oath-taking on Dec. 7, 2013, at the Sunshine Garden Restaurant at Susupe.

Casamina, Business Manager; and Edgar Genobaten, Auditor.

The new board of directors is composed of Noli Santos, Rosemarie Taniegra, Lei Hicaro, Anabelle Lubi, Irene Santiago, Gerry de Guzman, and Jun Banadera.

We wish the newly elected officers and board of directors the best in leading MIFICPA in the coming year! (*MIFICPA*)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA board meeting on Dec. 17

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 3:00pm at the CCA conference room. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org.

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013, at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency, Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker will be Joe Santos and Joe Guerrero. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org.

**Remember, Buzzed Driving
IS Drunk Driving.**

**Don't Drink & Drive.
It's not worth hurting yourself
or your loved ones.**

*Have a Safe and Fun
Holiday Season!*

For more information about Substance Abuse Prevention in the CNMI, contact Project Brabu at (670) 323-6590 or email projectbrabu.marketing@gmail.com



This publication was made possible by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Strategic Prevention Framework State Prevention Enhancement Grant.

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all our generous sponsors, volunteers, support agencies and the international field of participants in making the

7th Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle

the most successful race yet! We are humbled by the outpouring of support and look forward to the 2014 HOM on December 6, 2014!

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SUPPORT AGENCIES: MVA, Parks & Recreation, DPS, DPW, CHC

VOLUNTEERS GROUPS: PIC, DFS, Triple J Enterprises / Hertz, Worldwide Marriage Encounter, Saipan Southern High School My Wave Club, Marianas Baptist Academy, Mt. Carmel School, Saipan Community Church Youth Group, Radio Club, Power 99, Saipan Bike Pro.

VOLUNTEERS: Bobbi Grizzard, Sheila Trianni, Lawrence Diyco, Marietta Klingsberg, Naomi Santos, Lori Hutchison, Margaret Rose, Nicky Nichols, Alicia Swain, Amber Van't Hof, Rex Kosack, Sean & Emily Frink, Joe & Linda Muna, Wayne & Jayvier Pangelinan, Peyton Gomez.

Bill calls for mutual agreement on divert field site

» NMI National Guard study authorized

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The conference committee ironing out differences between the U.S. House and Senate on the National Defense Authorization Act for 2014 has set limits on Air Force development of divert airfield facilities in the Northern Mariana Islands. Statutory language in the bill, H.R. 1960, will bar any expenditure of funds until the Air Force reports to Congress on various alternatives considered for the divert-field operations. In addition, report language accompanying the bill notes the concerns of the governor of the Northern Marianas with regard to whether the operations will be located on the island of Tinian or Saipan and calls for a mutually agreeable resolution to that issue.

“I have been in active discus-

sion with the Armed Services Committee regarding the location of the divert field,” said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), “and how to make sure that all of our local concerns are addressed by the Air Force.

“The requirements that Congress now seems likely to approve in the Defense Authorization Act will help ensure that all sides of this issue are considered fully.”

The National Defense Authorization Act for 2014 is expected to be brought to the House floor for a vote this week and to the Senate the week after.

The divert field will provide an alternative in the event that aircraft cannot be landed at Andersen Air Force Base on Guam because of natural disaster or military conflict. Construction of a maintenance facility, a hazardous cargo pad, and an airport storage facility are among

the planned developments on either Tinian or Saipan. Both those islands have existing runways capable of handling large military aircraft.

“Governor Inos—and I fully agree with him on this—has expressed the view that Tinian is a preferable location,” Sablan said. “The U.S. already leases two-thirds of the island, so there is ample room for the facilities the Air Force will need.

“Around the Saipan International Airport, on the other hand, there is limited public land, much of which may be needed for commercial development in the future. And with our growing tourism industry the potential for use conflicts between military aircraft and commercial passenger planes could become a problem if Saipan is the site for the divert field. So it seems better management to separate the two activities—

military and commercial—on separate islands.”

National Guard feasibility to be studied

The Defense Authorization Act also sets the stage for a Northern Mariana Islands National Guard unit, by directing that the Secretary of Defense conduct a feasibility study and report to Congress within 180 days of the Act being signed in to law.

Currently, men and women from the Northern Marianas serve in the Guam National Guard. The Guam unit has been stationed in Afghanistan and returns to the U.S. for demobilization this month.

Besides deployment to combat, however, National Guard units, which are under the authority of respective state and territorial governors, can be called up to respond to natural disasters or to assist in restoring order.

Sablan introduced legislation, H.R. 2773, in the last Congress that required establishment of a Northern Marianas National Guard. But the Armed Services Committee was unwilling to move forward without an in-depth look at the practicalities.

The feasibility study now likely to be approved will look at

issues of cost, existing and needed infrastructure, and whether there is sufficient population in the islands to support a National Guard unit. The Secretary of Defense will also report on whether a local law authorizing an organized militia for the Commonwealth will need to be enacted.

(Office of the Delegate)

EPA seeks Environmental Education Grant applications

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now accepting applications for environmental education projects under the agency’s Environmental Education Grant Program.


The program supports educational projects that have a lasting impact on people’s health by facilitating environmental stewardship. Projects in the past have engaged students in stream monitoring, created sustainable mentoring communities, and provided professional development to teachers.

Eligible organizations in-


clude local education agencies, colleges or universities, state education or environmental agencies, tribal education agencies, 501(C)(3) nonprofit organizations, and noncommercial educational broadcasting entities working in education.

This competitive grants program will total \$2.77 million. Each award will be an estimated \$75,000 to \$200,000.

For more information about the program and how to apply: <http://www2.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>. *(EPA)*



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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (including Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing for calendar year 2014. In order for NMHC to extend your company’s inclusion on our listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies that are not on our list of approved contractors but wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

- Valid CNMI Business License
- Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
- 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
- 2 Years Corporate Income Tax Returns (1120)
- Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
- Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
- Workmen’s Compensation Policy
- Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
- A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts
- At least three (3) reference letters from owners of the completed projects
- List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them (CONSTRUCTION QUARRY, READY-MIX CEMENT & HARDWARE STORES)
- Company background
- Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable
- Annual Report (Registrar of Corporations)

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY DECEMBER 20, 2013 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY’S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF “APPROVED CONTRACTORS.”

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/S/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR



**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**



In Re General Order

)
) **NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS AND**
) **ORDER TO APPEAR**
)
)

THE COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY has in its possession certain third party funds, which have remained unclaimed for more than one year. According to court records, the following people may be entitled to have funds returned to them:

Name	Case Name	Case Number
1. Wa Guoli	CNMI v. Wang Guo Li	CR-97-0303
2. Hyon Ok Lee	CNMI v. Hyon Ok Lee	CR-98-0379
3. Ying, Du Li	CNMI v. Du Li Yen	CR-97-0302
4. Albert S. Rospel	CNMI v. Christopher Rengil	CR-97-0081
5. Lee, Kwok Kwun Andy	CNMI v. Bao Lin Sha	CR-99-0337
6. Carrie Camacho	CNMI v. Nelia S. Madlmeduh	CR-98-0377
7. Shu Xian Hong	CNMI v. Shu Xian Hong	CR-99-0277
8. Zheng Cia aka Zhen Shaojin	CNMI v. Zheng Cia aka Zheng Shaojun	CR-97-0428
9. Huang Zhi Jie	CNMI v. Huang Zhi Zie	CR-98-0037
10. Sang Hee Kim	CNMI v. Chang Hyun Corp, et al	CR-98-0200
11. Jung Choun Song	CNMI v. Chang Hyun Corp, et al	CR-98-0200
12. Hong Jian Huang	CNMI v. Hong Jian Huang	CR-99-0340
13. Yan Zhen Chen	CNMI v. Shou Yu Huang	CR-99-0335
14. Jun Yang	CNMI v. Guo Lin Zhang	CR-99-0341
15. Jun Wang	CNMI v. Hai Ming Zhao	CR-00-0229
16. Michael J. McCart	CNMI v. Yi Fu Zhao	CR-99-0567
17. Dorte Weital	CNMI v. Christino Selgor	CR-00-0234
18. Fu Qin Ying	CNMI v. Bao Lin Sha	CR-00-0228
19. Yuemei Lu	CNMI v. Hong Fan Li	CR-00-0224
20. Nick Nicholson	CNMI v. Hai Ying Wen	CR-00-0222
21. Chang Zhe Jin	CNMI v. Jin, Chang Zhe	TR-05-02372
22. Igisaia, M.	CNMI v. Ramon C. Blas	CR-03-0400
23. Robert J. O'Connor	CNMI v. Jian Huang	CR-03-0350
24. Kenji Yoshida	Yu's Enterprises v. Kwun Kee Co	CV-04-0332
25. Juan Borja Camacho	CNMI v. Juan B. Camacho	CR-06-0027
26. Sung Bae	OAG & Immigration v. Dong Sub Sim	CV-03-0612
27. Danilo T. Aguilar	OAG & Immigration v. Normandy I. Santos	CV-05-0057
28. Quan, Jizhe	CNMI v. Chunri Chui & Quan Hengquan	CR-03-0408
29. Raquel O. Aldan	OAG & Immigration v. Raquel O. Aldan	CV-03-0277
30. Park, Mu C.	CNMI v. Sam Hyun Chang	CR-03-0078
31. Guiying Qin	OAG & Immigration v. Li Xiao	CV-03-0212
32. Wang, Sheng Sheng	CNMI v. Yang Yang	CR-00-0226
33. Guilan, Xu	CNMI v. Jiang Ping	CR-00-0218
34. Liankan, Zhu	CNMI v. Jing Jing Zeng	CR-00-0232
35. Lu, Hong	CNMI v. Yue Mei Zin	CR-00-0231
36. Zenaida Javier	CNMI v. Joseph Castro Javier	CR-00-0256
37. Wang, Zhiguang	CNMI v. Wang Zhi Guang	CR-99-0336

The aforementioned parties shall have until Wednesday, December 18, 2013 to make a claim with the Judiciary for the return of these funds. In order to make a claim, parties must complete a form, which is available at the Clerk of Court’s office. Upon completion, parties shall submit the original and two photocopies of the form, together with two photocopies of a valid passport and/or government-issued photo identification, to the Clerk of Court located at Door Number 1 of the Guma Hustisia, Iimwaal Aweewe on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Claims must be submitted to the Clerk of Court and may be brought from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday of each week.

Any funds belonging to the parties named above that remain unclaimed after Wednesday, December 18, 2013 may be forfeited and turned over to the Commonwealth General Fund.

On December 20, 2013, all parties named above shall appear before Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja in Courtroom 202A at 9:00 a.m. and await the call of his or her claim by case number and captioned parties. Parties must bring a copy of their claim form with them when appearing for this court proceeding.

ENTERED this 22nd day of October, 2013.

/s/ ROBERTO C. NARAJA
Presiding Judge

GOVERNOR, VETO ELECTRONIC GAMING BILL.

COMPARISONS

	Electronic Gaming	Casino
SLOT MACHINES	X	X
POKER	X	X
ROULETTE	X	X
BACCARAT	X	X
BLACKJACK	X	X
CRAPS	X	X
BIG WHEEL	X	X
PAI GOW	X	X
SIC BO	X	X

ELECTRONIC GAMING IS CASINO!
TWICE VOTED DOWN BY THE PEOPLE!
RESPECT THE VOTE OF THE PEOPLE!

“NO”... MEANS...” NO!!!!”



NO VETO...NO VOTES
IF ELECTRONIC GAMING BILL IS SIGNED
LITIGATION STARTS • INITIATIVE STARTS

CONCERNED CITIZENS

More efficient cattle export to Guam underway

The CNMI hopes to finally see some positive changes in animal quarantine regulations that have hindered livestock transport from the CNMI to Guam.

During the Marianas Governors' Summit held in September, Gov. Eloy Inos discussed trade barriers with Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo. Inos referred to the need to update import requirements to remove unnecessary restrictions. Calvo expressed his desire to move proactively to address these concerns.

Consequently, a resolution was passed at the historic first assembly of the Mariana Islands Legislature Association at the Guam Legislature this past November. The resolution recognized the need to address political, social, and economic

issues and concerns, including agriculture and trade relations between the CNMI and Guam.

A regulation in particular that has made it difficult for livestock transport is the requirement for an anaplasmosis test as a condition of entry into Guam. Anaplasmosis is a cattle disease that is endemic to Guam and the CNMI; however, it is no longer considered to be of major importance by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

For over three years, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources has worked with Guam's Department of Agriculture to propose amendments to phase out entry requirements and conditions that are no longer considered essential, are overly restrictive, or are not per-

forming their intended purpose. DLNR Secretary Arnold Palacios said these amendments are important to advance livestock production and will be beneficial to both CNMI and Guam farmers and ranchers.

The CNMI has sought to enhance and facilitate movement of CNMI cattle to Guam, where a serious inbreeding problem is widely evident. CNMI veterinarian Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz has stated that these overly restrictive quarantine regulations have been causing unnecessary and unwanted productive and reproductive problems and failures.

"The productive qualities of CNMI cattle have tremendously improved due to the practice of artificial insemination, using frozen semen imported from

the U.S. mainland. Allowing such CNMI cattle with superior genetic characteristics to enter Guam would greatly improve the productive qualities of Guam cattle. These qualities will in turn promote their agricultural economy, and would also be a tremendous economic benefit for CNMI ranchers as it would provide a large market for CNMI livestock," Dela Cruz said.

An internal analysis conducted by Guam DOA addressed the

concerns from CNMI DLNR, University of Guam, University of Hawaii, and interested private entities from both CNMI and Guam. The analysis provided a historical background and stated problems with current importation regulations. Moreover, the analysis provided data on the presence of anaplasmosis in Guam and the CNMI and recommended that anaplasmosis should be removed from the list of required tests for the importation of cattle anywhere in the United States and its territories.

Inos lauded the efforts of both

governments in addressing this matter as cattle ranchers have waited a very long time to see this change.

"With the partnership of Governor Calvo, both CNMI DLNR and Guam DOA were able to make tremendous progress on this project," said Inos. "This is certainly great news and a much welcome development to our ranchers."

The amendments to the Guam agricultural regulations are expected to be implemented by early February 2014. (*Office of the Governor*)

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE DICKEN'S ATTIC

Thespians present 'A Christmas Carol'

Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands are happy to present a show for the holiday season! *A Christmas Carol* is based on the famous novel by Charles Dickens but with a different twist in this adaptation by Michael Paller. Devonne Dotts directs the action.

"This play will be an excellent learning experience for me. I have always enjoyed Dickens' work. I remember watching this story around the holiday season. It feels right to be involved as a director intern," said Dotts.

MHS student Bruce Li takes on the lead role of Charles Dickens and Scrooge.

Charles Dickens acts the role of Scrooge as he writes the story. His guests, friends, and family who are visiting for Christmas

help him develop his ideas by putting on an impromptu play as he writes it. This is a play within a play that takes place in a Victorian attic. The attic is used by Charles Dickens as his writing den. His efforts for a Christmas tale is in progress on Dickens' desk in the attic when he is visited by his own spirit muse.

Much like Scrooge, Dickens is having difficulties. As his guests join him, he writes. He and his guests disguise themselves to become various characters of the emerging story by donning different clothes and props from what they can find in the attic, and the magic unfolds. Dickens as Scrooge, a stingy old man, clomps around the attic, which transforms to

become his money business and his bedroom and Cratchit's house and the graveyard, while his friends in turn play Cratchit, Tiny Tim, Fezziwig, and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. This classic tale is heartwarming and perfect for the whole family.

A Christmas Carol by Michael Paller, based on the novel by Charles Dickens, will be staged on Wednesday, Dec. 18, and Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013, at 7pm at the MHS Dolphin Theatre. Tickets are available from students and also at the door. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

For more information contact Harold Easton by telephone at 285-1657 or by email at hal.easton@cnmipss.org. (*PR*)

Jury starts deliberations in Reyes trial

A Superior Court jury started deliberations yesterday afternoon in the case against Alfredo E. Reyes, a 51-year-old man who is on trial for allegedly sexually abusing a then-16-year-old girl in 2009.

The six jurors were sent home at 5pm after they failed to reach a unanimous verdict. They will return to court at 8:15am today, Friday, to continue their deliberations.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato rested the defense's case after calling to the witness

stand yesterday the brother and half-brother of the alleged victim. On Wednesday, Sato called to the witness stand the alleged victim's two sisters.

Sato then moved for a judgment of acquittal, but Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho denied the motion.

Reyes broke down in loud sobs as assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda was making his closing arguments yesterday, briefly halting the trial. Some of Reyes' children sitting behind him also cried. Assistant public defender

Matthew Meyer, co-counsel for Sato, talked to Reyes, who continued to cry but quietly. Sato and Cepeda completed their closing arguments shortly before noon.

The jurors then began their deliberations in the afternoon.

On Tuesday, the alleged victim, who is now 20 years old, narrated how Reyes sexually abused her at Laulau Beach in May 2009, at the Coral Ocean Point beach in September 2009, and in a jungle area by the Hawaiian Rock Co. in December 2009. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



In Humble Gratitude

We, the family of the late

Jose Carlos Pangelinan Tenorio

Also known as "Ping Up"

Wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all our relatives and friends for their kind expression of love, sympathy, personal assistance and support during this difficult time of sorrow in the passing of our beloved in the caring hands of our Creator.

Our special thanks to Father Ryan Jimenez, the clergy, altar servers and the choir. Also, to our techa – Bobbie Torres Sablan and to our dear friends and family, near and afar, we thank you very much.

To all who have helped us in one way or another, your presence, compassion and generosity will always be remembered.

May God bless us all.

Thank You – Si Yuu's Maase

Mrs. Amaparo DLG Tenorio & Family



DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

† Maria Esteves Halstead

Lovingly known as "Marian Elung"

Born to life on July 12, 1944 and was called to her eternal rest on December 08, 2013.

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:
Parents: †Francisca Ilano and †Jose Aldan Esteves
Husband: †Robert E. Halstead
Brother: †Jose I. Esteves
Sister: †Rita E. Santos

Her Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of Her:
Children:
 Pamela J. Halstead and children
 Mark E. & Elsie DLC. Halstead and children
 Brett M. Halstead and family
 Tanya L. Halstead
 Cameron J. Halstead
Brother, Sister and In-Laws:
 Juan I. Esteves and family
 Isabel E. Santos and family

She will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, godchildren, cousins, and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions is being offered at 6:00AM at Kristo Rai Church.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, December 16, 2013. Our beloved's remains will be escorted from CHC at 7:30AM to San Roque Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00AM followed by Interment Services at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

Please Join Us in Prayers

The Family





**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB14-GOV-019**

REPAIRS, RENOVATION AND IMPROVEMENTS OF THE TINIAN HEALTH CENTER

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, are soliciting sealed bids for the Repairs, Renovation and Improvements of the Tinian Health Center (THC), San Jose Village, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package is available at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A **\$100.00 non-refundable fee** for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project at the project site on **December 04, 2013 at 9:30 a.m., local time**. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site to familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 13, 2013** to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia, Project Manager at balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com, or to the Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Fax Number (670) 664-2408. Responses to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB14-GOV-019"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, December 24, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, December 24, 2013** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 24, 2013** and must be received no later than **January 06, 2014**. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m., local time, January 07, 2014**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time, December 24, 2013**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

- Acceptable assets are only:
- 1) Cash
 - 2) US Government Securities
 - 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
 - 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
 - 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred dollars (\$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director**



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-14-003**

**Completion of Installation of a New 500,000 Gal. Diesel Fuel Tank
at Power Plant No.1, Saipan**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals (Request for Proposals – RFP) from qualified and experienced Tank erection / installation firms for correction of existing defects, assembly, installation and commissioning a new Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST), as per the specifications contained in the proposal document and monitored through a construction management firm and a third party quality control firm, contracted by CUC. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Workplan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 and Integrity Inspection Program.

The Saipan Power plant is located in the Lower Base Industrial Area near the Saipan Seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The foundation, tank and accessories have been designed by a US based company and the tank assembly kit was supplied to Saipan port by the same company, United Industries Group, CA (UIG) for installation by a local contractor. The previous construction contractor has been terminated due to default and performance issues while the metal work and welding work was in progress. The project is currently in a partially finished state.

The purpose of this RFP is to ensure the CUC is to ensure that the new tank is built to the codes and standards to which it was originally designed, including the corrections necessary, details of which have been described in the RFP and meets the stringent tests and inspections noted therein. Upon being awarded the contract and receiving the Notice to Proceed (NTP), the contractor will complete the correction as provided in the RFP. Following schedules shall be noted by all vendors:

- Contract Award - **February 6, 2014**
- Notice to proceed / site mobilization - **February 13, 2014**
- Tank completion - **July 8, 2014**

The Scope-of-Work and Proposal package will be emailed, upon request, to all interested proposers, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM local time, until **December 18, 2013**.

A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit is scheduled at the Saipan CUC Power Plant 1, administration building on **December 18, 2013 at 10:00 AM**, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) Original and Six(6) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-14-003 - REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - Completion of Installation of a New 500,000 Gal. Diesel Fuel Tank at Power Plant No.1, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 31, 2013** at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Upon award of the contract the Offeror is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposal. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code, with the proposal.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00am (ChST) on December 20, 2013**, to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Petroleum and Compliance Manager, Mr. Andrew Longworth at andrew.longworth@cucgov.org.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the interest of the government.

CHARLES WARREN
Acting Executive Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR BOND TRUSTEE SERVICES
2013-CDA-07-RFP
Friday, December 6, 2013**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 3, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA), are soliciting proposals for bond trustee services.

The original and six (6) copies of a proposal must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time (Chst) on Thursday, December 26, 2013. No proposals will be accepted after that date and time. Proposals shall be in sealed envelopes marked "Proposal for Bond Trustee Services" and delivered to the attention of:

Mr. Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement and Supply (P&S)
Department of Finance
Government of the Northern Mariana Islands
Lower Base
Saipan, MP 96950

Copies of the RFP package may be obtained from the CDA office, CDA Building in San Jose, Saipan. Electronic copies of the Proposal will not be accepted. The CDA reserves the right to reject any proposal that in its sole determination is not in the best interest of the CNMI Government.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
CDA Executive Director

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director**



**INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-14-006**

**CHALAN KIYA-KANAT TABLA WATERLINE CONNECTION
(W12-022)**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Chalan Kiya-Kanat Tabla Waterline Connection in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope-of-work consists of installation of new six (6) inch ductile iron distribution main connecting the Kanat Tabla booster pump through the existing Chalan Kiya water distribution main line. It also includes replacement and installation of various new valves, and water service lateral connections at designated areas within the Chalan Kiya Village.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Tender Documents may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable); at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **December 24, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-006, Chalan Kiya-Kanat Tabla Waterline Connection, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 14, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 27, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christi Lazaro, Engineer, CUC Water-Wastewater Division via email christi.lazaro@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Support Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

Teen is determined to turn virtual romance into marriage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 17-year-old daughter, "Erica," is planning to marry her 24-year-old boyfriend. I use the term "boyfriend" loosely because their relationship consists entirely of texting, talking on the phone and the Internet. There has been no dating or getting to know each other in person. Erica is intent on marrying this man even though he has lied to her several times in addition to having lied to us. She is planning to attend a four-year college.

I'm not sure how to handle this. She hid the relationship from us for more than six months. I realize Erica needs to make her own mistakes, but I'm not sure how to make her understand my very real concern about this.

I have raised other children who went through various phases of teenage rebellion, but we were able to reach a general compromise on all types of behavior. However, she is unwilling to discuss the possibility of waiting. Any advice would be appreciated.

NEEDS HELP IN VIRGINIA

DEAR NEEDS HELP: If Erica were my daughter, I'd suggest that because this relationship is so serious it's time you both paid a visit to her intended. Assuming her father is in the picture, he should be there, too. The subject of who will be paying for college should be discussed, and whether Erica will be able to continue her education if she should become pregnant. It may give her a glimpse of exactly what she's letting herself in for BEFORE the wedding.

Of course the three of you will want to meet as many of his family and friends as possible. Because Erica won't listen to reason, perhaps SEEING will bring her back down to earth. This will also give you (all) a chance to find out what else her "boyfriend" may have been lying about, including his age.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: What do I do about my husband's cruelty to our cat? My children love "Miss Kitty," but their dad kicks her and terrorizes the poor little thing to the point where I don't think I can protect her any longer, especially when I'm not home.

I have told the kids that Dad is wrong and not to be like him, but I'm afraid eventually they may think it's OK to mistreat animals. What should I do?

CALIFORNIA ANIMAL LOVER

DEAR ANIMAL LOVER: Find Miss Kitty a good home ASAP! Your husband appears to have sociopathic tendencies. Does he exhibit them in any other ways? A man who mistreats animals might also abuse children if they should get in his way or he is in a bad mood.

Of course, your children will be upset when you give their beloved pet away. Explain that it had to be done because she wasn't safe around their father.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My sister informed me today that her children have registered at Toys R Us, and has instructed me to purchase only the toys on their registry for Christmas! Apparently, this is the new way to shop.

Abby, I have never told anyone what to buy my kids, and I'm appalled by this new idea of a Christmas registry. I try very hard to buy great Christmas gifts that my loved ones will enjoy. Am I wrong to think this is rude?

APPALLED SHOPPER

■■■■

DEAR APPALLED: I agree your sister's request is presumptuous. But I suppose a Christmas registry is a natural progression from wedding and baby registries. There wouldn't be a Toys R Us registry if it wasn't a successful sales tool for people who don't like to shop. Because you are not one of them, and Christmas shopping brings you pleasure, I suggest you do as you wish.

P.S. Let's see how Sissy responds when you let her know you have adopted her idea and will register at Tiffany's on your next birthday.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community honors 'Mother of the Universe'

» MCS students joining celebration for over 4 decades now

Photos by THOMAS A. MANGLONA



Fr. Daynos presents his homily.



Hundreds of churchgoers and students raise their candles during the candle tribute to the Blessed Mother.



Parish altar servers during the Lukao.

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Priests from several parishes, parish members, and community members filled the Mount Carmel Cathedral Monday night as Little Miss December 8 Queen Kayla Monique Cabrera walked up the aisle and crowned the blessed Mother Mary in celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

"It is her [Mary] love for her son that makes her holy," Rev. Tinong Daynos II said in his homily. "It is the same love that she and Jesus show toward us."

Rev. Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, presided over the three-hour Mass and Rev. Fr. Isaac M. Ayuyu served as the master of ceremony.

The Immaculate Conception is often referred to as the "dogma of the Catholic Church."

The annual three-hour liturgical celebration celebrates the belief in the Immaculate Conception. This occasion is recognized universally and is the patronal feast day for Spain, Korea, Portugal, Brazil, the Philippines, and the United States—nine months before the feast of the Nativity of Mary.

Everyone in attendance later participated in the traditional "Lukao" or Procession of the Blessed Mother, led by parish altar servers, parish members, several organizations, and the students of Mount Carmel School and their band.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception also featured a candle tribute to Blessed Mother Mary, with people



Queen Cabrera, left, and her Royal Court pose for a photo during the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass.



MCS students carry banners during the Lukao, representing each of the island's parishes.

raising their candles and singing *Abe Nanan Yu'us* and exclaiming "Biba" as darkness began to set at the cathedral.

The Mount Carmel community has participated in this annual feast since the '60s and was present that night to once again share their voices and lead the diocesan community in song, the Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the procession.

"Mount Carmel has always had a great partnership with the Diocese and this is probably a good example of that," Mt. Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*. "Our school was founded under the Diocese, under the Mount Carmel Cathedral, and it is only fitting that we do this every year for Our Lady of Mount Carmel." MCS teacher Frances

Taimanao has attended the celebration for the past seven years and described the event as "a devotion to faith and a time we can reflect on what we believe in."

Little Miss December 8 Queen Kayla Cabrera, 8, said she was "happy" to be the Queen during the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Her mother, Zeny Borja, shared that this was the first time her daughter ran for Queen. "She is doing this for the church and her community. Being a Queen is only secondary, the thing that comes first is her service to the church and the community."

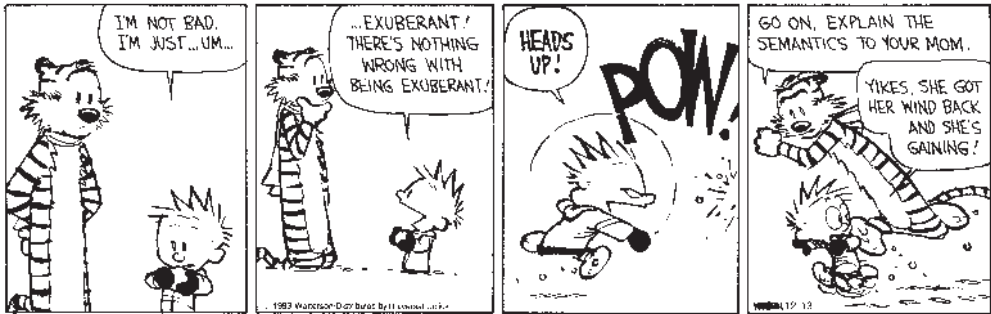
According to Borja, Cabrera currently serves as an altar server and is "always looking for ways to better serve the community through the church."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

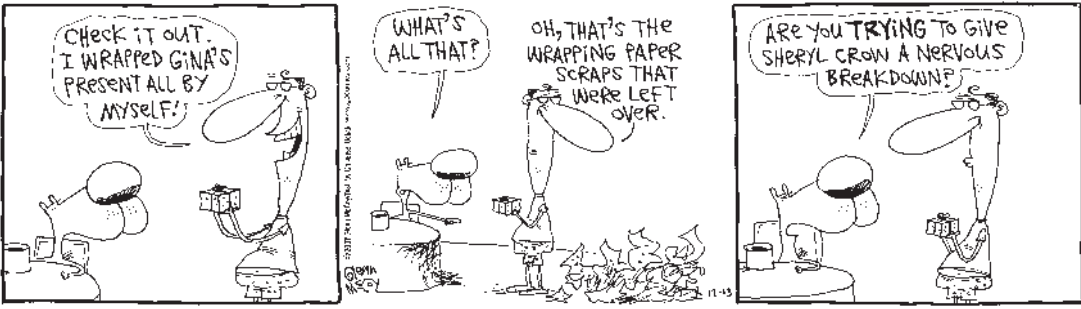
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 DVD warning issuer 4 Came to earth 8 Turfs 12 Assn. 13 Actress Turner 14 Cut short 15 Ex-hausting 17 Demolish 18 Grand-scale tale 19 Made into a heap 20 Urban fleet 22 Latch (onto) 24 Being, to Brutus 25 Bottom-dwelling food fish 29 Scale members 30 View-point 31 Upper surface 32 Toiletries' purpose 34 Withstand

35 Borrower's burden 36 Like some bad apples 37 Composer Erik 40 Any time now 41 Dunkable treat 42 Prospered 46 Stead 47 Green land 48 Common-est English word 49 Prob-ability 50 "Sounds!"

51 Thanks-giving veggie 52 Titanic destroyer 21 Addict 22 \$50 "portrait" 23 Pro-tracted 25 Smooth-talking 26 Forever and ever 27 Wander 28 Agile 30 Hook's hench-man 33 Hateful 34 LummoX 36 Im-pressed greatly 37 Unaccompanied 38 Dry 39 — off (angry) 40 Anti-toxins 42 "Golly!" 43 Equip-ment 44 Dance syllable 45 Height of fashion

Solution time: 25 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 12-13

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Swift, 24; Jamie Foxx, 46; Steve Buscemi, 56; Wendie Malick, 63.

Happy Birthday: Travel about and engage in networking functions and talks that can help you reach your goals. Making a move that is conducive to finding a better job or being closer to friends, family or those who can help you advance should be considered. Shake things up and make things happen. Stop postponing and start moving toward your destination. Your numbers are 2, 8, 20, 27, 35, 40, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make an effort and enforce change that will help you begin the year on a positive note. Don't let the past drag you down when you should speak up and move forward. It's up to you to make things happen. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Hang out with creative people and it will influence the way you approach jobs and your life. Let your emotions rise to the surface so you can share what you want and how you feel. Romance will improve your personal position. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Offer your skills, services or physical assistance, but don't meddle in anyone's personal affairs. There will be a fine line between help and taking over. How you handle matters now will determine what you get in return in the future. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Accept the inevitable and focus on the things you can do to improve your life, your financial situation and your future. Use your imagination and

you will come up with an innovative idea that will spin you in a favorable direction. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do something different. Find an entertaining way to spend your day. Getting involved in something that moves you or taking a trip that motivates you to parlay your talents in a direction that will bring you fulfillment should be your goal. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out and do things that will make you feel good. Attending an event or party will lead to a positive emotional encounter. Don't let any domestic worries get you down. Time will heal an unsettled situation. Love is on the rise. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Discuss concerns openly. It's important to come to an agreement before you put too much time or energy into something. Expect to feel pressured by someone at work or at home. Listen attentively but make decisions based on practicality. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a moment to recap what's happened this year. You'll learn from the experiences you have encountered and will realize who is important to you. An update regarding old friends will encourage you to make plans to get together. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Fix up the house and prepare to entertain as the year comes to a close. Getting into the spirit of the season will bring about positive changes that set the stage for a good time with friends and family. ***

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The time you take to spend with the ones you love the most will be appreciated. You can make some practical adjustments to the way you live that will ensure you have greater cash flow in the months to come. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do whatever it takes to secure your position and to improve your reputation. Don't let emotional matters swell out of proportion, causing friction between you and someone you care about. Make positive financial changes to improve your standard of living. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will find great buys if you go shopping, but make your purchases based on your research, not a sales pitch. An interesting proposition will cross your path. You'll find a way to take advantage of what's being offered. *****

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, aggressive and a leader. You are charming and shrewd.

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SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			9							
	7		3							
4		2		6					1	
	9		7						1	
1		4						6	3	
	3				4			5		
5				1			4	2		
					5		3			
							8			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 12/13

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	9	7	5	2	8	6	1	3
5	3	2	6	7	1	9	4	8
6	8	1	9	4	3	7	5	2
2	4	3	1	8	6	5	9	7
7	6	9	2	5	4	3	8	1
8	1	5	3	9	7	2	6	4
9	5	8	7	1	2	4	3	6
3	7	4	8	6	5	1	2	9
1	2	6	4	3	9	8	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/12

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EMMA ROBERTS Solution: 9 letters

SECAFYAMMEOKKFS
ETYIPLODITNEUP
SVRPSDWJILLIANY
OIOEEUULOLAPTNM
RPTLBNMAERC SOYA
EMSYGOSDAELENLT
NIBCCIRENEDRAKE
NLLNLEBITOORDCC
ALOAGAROLKELLYA
OEWNNAHEVLEWTHR
JRINMSKRISTINAG
USAAOCUNNINGHAM
LWUJIDNAGROMILD
IQUNFABULOUSGOD
ADDIELIZARRIVED

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Clippers beat Celtics 96-88 in Doc Rivers' return



BOSTON (AP)—Jamal Crawford hit a pair of 3-pointers 23 seconds apart to help the Clippers pull away in the last 3 minutes and former Celtics coach Doc Rivers won his first game back in Boston when Los Angeles beat the Celtics 96-88 Wednesday night.

Crawford came off the bench to score 21 points and Chris Paul had 22 points, nine assists and seven rebounds. Blake Griffin scored 18 points for the Clippers, who won for the seventh time in 10 games.

Jeff Green scored 29 points against his former coach, who was traded to Los Angeles last summer for a first-round draft pick. Jordan Crawford had 20 points and nine assists, and Brandon Bass had 17 points and 12 rebounds for the Celtics, who lost their second in a row.

Boston lost to the Brooklyn Nets on Tuesday night, kicking off a reunion week of sorts by facing former Celtics Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce. One night later, Rivers returned to the TD Garden, where the banner for the franchise's unprecedented 17th NBA title hangs from the rafters.

The Clippers continue his reunion week Thursday night when against Garnett and Pierce in Brooklyn.

Warriors 95, Mavericks 93

In Oakland, Calif., Stephen Curry made a pull-up jumper with 3 seconds remaining to cap a sensational fourth quarter, rallying Golden State from 18 points down to beat Dallas.

Curry scored 16 of his 33 points in the final period. He finished with nine assists, four rebounds and another big shot in a young career already full of them.

With the clock winding down, Curry dribbled on the perimeter, came off a screen and faked a shot to send Shawn Marion jumping past him. Curry then made a 19-footer to give Golden State the lead for good.

Jose Calderon heaved a desperation shot at the buzzer that was never close.

Harrison Barnes scored 17 points, David Lee added 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Andrew Bogut grabbed a season-high 18 rebounds to help the Warriors overcome 18 turnovers and a sloppy start.

Monta Ellis and Dirk Nowitzki each scored 21 points, and Calderon had 18 as Dallas finished 2-2 on its road trip.

Knicks 83, Bulls 78

In New York, Carmelo Anthony had 30 points and 10 rebounds, and New York pulled out the victory over Chicago after blowing a 23-point lead.

Amare Stoudemire made the tiebreaking jumper with 2:35 left and finished with 14 points and nine rebounds for



Doc Rivers, former head coach of the Boston Celtics and current head coach of the Los Angeles Clippers, waves to cheering fans as he enters the TD Garden floor for his first time back, before an NBA basketball game in Boston, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013.

the Knicks, who ended a two-game losing streak but made it harder on themselves than necessary with some sloppy second-half offense.

Mike Dunleavy Jr. scored 20 points for the Bulls, who have lost three straight and five of six. They are having a dreadful time scoring, topping out at 75 points in their previous two games and barely surpassing that in this one.

Joakim Noah had 12 points and 11 rebounds in his return after missing a game with a bruised right thigh, but Luol Deng missed his third straight game with a sore left Achilles.

Timberwolves 106, 76ers 99

In Minneapolis, Kevin Love had 26 points, 15 rebounds and five assists, and Minnesota rallied from a 19-point deficit to beat slumping Philadelphia.

Ricky Rubio had 21 points, seven assists and five rebounds, Nikola Pekovic added 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Robbie Hummel hit a couple of big shots for the Wolves in the fourth quarter to key the comeback.

Spencer Hawes had 20 points and six rebounds for the Sixers, who led 39-20 after a tremendous first quarter and still held a 13-point advantage at halftime. But they turned the ball over 26 times and shot 14 free throws to Minnesota's 29.

Hummel scored all 10 of his points in the fourth, including a 3-pointer that started the deciding 13-3 run.

Jazz 122, Kings 101

In Sacramento, Calif., Richard Jefferson scored 20 points and Utah halted a four-game skid by cruising past Sacramento.

The Jazz led by 24 points heading into the fourth quarter, five points more than their previous largest lead after a quarter this season.

Derrick Favors and Gordon Hayward scored 17 points apiece for the Jazz, who established season highs for assists (35) and points scored. Utah, which has the NBA's worst record (5-20), shot 54 percent and scored more than 100 points for just the sixth time this season.

Alec Burks had 15 points and rookie point guard Trey Burke added 11 points and nine assists for Utah.

DeMarcus Cousins had 17 of his 21 points in the second half and added 11 rebounds for the Kings, who had their two-game

winning streak snapped.

Thunder 116, Grizzlies 100

In Memphis, Tenn., Russell Westbrook scored 27 points and Kevin Durant added 18 to lead Oklahoma City over Memphis.

Reserve guard Jeremy Lamb added a career-high 18 points to help the Thunder to their fourth straight win and 12th in 13 games. Neither Westbrook nor Durant played in the fourth quarter, when the Thunder maintained a double-digit lead.

Mike Conley had 20 points

for the Grizzlies and Zach Randolph and reserve Jon Leuer scored 17 apiece.

Memphis ended a season-long six-game homestand with the loss.

Pelicans 111, Pistons 106, OT

In New Orleans, Ryan Anderson shook off an unusually poor shooting night from long range, hitting two clutch 3-pointers in overtime that carried New Orleans past Detroit.

Jason Smith scored 22 points and grabbed a career-high 16 rebounds for the Pelicans, who snapped a two-game skid while handing Detroit its third straight loss. Anderson finished with 22 points on 6-of-18 shooting, including 4 of 12 from 3-point range. Jrue Holiday added 19 points and Al-Farouq Aminu had 11 points and 14 rebounds.

New Orleans native Greg Monroe had 28 points and 10 rebounds for Detroit, which led by 3 points early in overtime before Anderson's first 3 of the extra session tied it. Brandon Jennings added 25 points and Rodney Stuckey 20.

Spurs 109, Bucks 77

In Milwaukee, Tim Duncan had 21 points and 16 rebounds while playing just 24 minutes and Tony Parker added 15 points in San Antonio's rout of Milwaukee.

San Antonio had lost three of its last six games after starting the season 13-1, but domi-

nated from the opening tip, scoring the first nine points. An 8-0 run extended the Spurs lead to 27-10.

The Bucks pulled within 41-30 in the second quarter, but the Spurs responded with a 10-0 run. The Spurs led 63-40 at the half and extended it to 92-54 entering the final period.

Kawhi Leonard scored 13 points, Marco Belinelli added 11, and Danny Green and Cory Joseph had 10 apiece for the Spurs, who shot 52.3 percent, despite making only 4 of 17 3-point attempts.

Rookie guard Nate Wolters led the Bucks with a season-high 18 points.

Magic 92, Bobcats 83

In Charlotte, N.C., Jameer Nelson had 12 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter and Orlando snapped a six-game losing streak by beating Charlotte.

Glen Davis added 17 points and 12 rebounds and Nikola Vucevic chipped in with 12 points and 14 rebounds. Arron Affalo had 16 points.

Nelson came up with a big 3-pointer late for the Magic, and also had seven rebounds and six assists while outplaying fellow point guard Kemba Walker.

The Bobcats shot 37 percent from the field to see their two-game win streak come to an end.

Al Jefferson led Charlotte with 10 points and 11 rebounds. Walker, who had 31 points against Stephen Curry on Monday night, was held to 10 points on 4 of 18 shooting.

M's and Mets spend; plate collisions to be banned



L A K E B U E N A VISTA, Fla.
(AP)—Talk

about change in baseball.

Seattle is spending, adding two-time All-Star Corey Hart and Logan Morrison to go along with Robinson Cano.

The New York Mets also are flashing big bucks, striking a deal with pitcher Bartolo Colon after signing Curtis Granderson.

And, in the biggest news at the winter meetings, Major League Baseball said it plans to ban home plate collisions by 2015 at the latest.

"I just want to try to eliminate any injuries, severe injuries," San Francisco Giants manager Bruce Bochy said Wednesday. "Whether it's a concussion or broken ankle, whatever."

Mets general manager Sandy Alderson, chairman of the rules committee, said the change would go into effect for next season if the players' association approved and in 2015 if it didn't. Safety and concern over concussions were major factors—fans still cringe at the thought of the season-ending hit Giants catcher Buster Posey absorbed in 2011.

"Ultimately what we want to do is change the culture of ac-

ceptance that these plays are ordinary and routine and an accepted part of the game," Alderson said. "The costs associated in terms of health and injury just no longer warrant the status quo."

Alderson said wording of the rules change will be presented to owners for approval at their Jan. 16 meeting in Paradise Valley, Ariz.

"We're going to do fairly extensive review of the types of plays that occur at home plate to determine which we're going to find acceptable and which are going to be prohibited," he said.

Away from the formal meetings, the Mariners added a pair of first baseman-outfielders with pop, reaching agreement on a one-year deal with Hart and acquiring Morrison in a trade with the Miami Marlins.

Hart confirmed he had agreed to the deal in a text to The Associated Press. The deal is still pending what should be a closely monitored physical. Hart missed last season following surgery on his right knee.

Morrison was acquired for relief pitcher Carter Capps, according to a person with knowledge of the deal. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the trade was pending both teams review-

ing medical records.

"Knees good as well as the rest of me. Been working hard and glad to be able to get out there with this exciting club," Hart said in a text message.

Seattle has made adding offense a top priority this offseason, starting with a yet-to-be-finalized agreement with Cano said to be worth \$240 million over 10 years.

After giving outfielder Curtis Granderson a \$60 million, four-year contract, the Mets reached agreement on a \$20 million, two-year deal with the 40-year-old Colon, raising their free-agent spending to more than \$87 million this offseason. The contract is pending the completion of a physical for the 18-game winner, a person familiar with the negotiations told the AP.

Pittsburgh agreed to a \$5 million, one-year contract with right-hander Edinson Volquez, also pending a physical. The 30-year-old Volquez went 9-12 with a 5.71 ERA this year while splitting time between San Diego and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Pirates and right-hander Charlie Morton agreed to a \$21 million, three-year contract that avoided

salary arbitration.

Also at the meetings, Matt Kemp's agent maintained the Dodgers are not trading the All-Star outfielder—for now.

"For the time being they are not going to move him," Dave Stewart said after meeting with Los Angeles GM Ned Colletti.

Mike Scioscia, manager of the rival Angels, said he's counting on a healthy Albert Pujols, limited to 99 games and 64 RBIs by a foot injury that ended his season in mid-August.

"He's taking batting practice. He feels very strong physically," Scioscia said. "I think the foot will be a non-issue."

Detroit finalized a \$10 million, two-year contract with outfielder Rajai Davis, Houston acquired right-hander Anthony Bass from San Diego in a deal that also sends a player to be named or cash both ways, and Oakland sent left-hander Jerry Blevins to Washington for minor league outfielder Billy Burns—the Athletics' fifth trade in 10 days.

Utilityman Jerry Hairston Jr. said he is retiring.

MLB executive vice president Joe Torre said talks on expanded video review next season are continuing with the unions for umpires and players.

Shanahan sits RG3; Cousins will start for Redskins



ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—It takes quite the sales job to explain why a medically cleared Robert Griffin III won't play for the rest of the season.

Embattled Washington Redskins coach Mike Shanahan realized that and gave it his best shot Wednesday, speaking passionately at times in a 28-minute news conference that included references to the team's "circus atmosphere" and insistences that the move isn't a ploy to get himself fired.

The upshot is that Griffin will be the inactive third quarterback for the Redskins' final three games, behind starter Kirk Cousins and backup Rex Grossman. Shanahan's reasoning is that he fears Griffin, who has taken a pounding in recent weeks, will get hurt, and that would ruin the franchise player's offseason—a reversal of Shanahan's oft-stated position that Griffin needed as much game experience as possible and would play to the end of the season.

"You've got to take a look at the risk and reward," Shanahan said. "And with Robert I thought that his hits were piling up on him, giving him his toll, and I was afraid that we would set him back."

Griffin, who publicly clashed with Shanahan at times this year, clearly wasn't happy with the

decision. He gestured, shrugged and shook his head throughout his turn at the podium, and he declined to answer when asked if he believes Shanahan's rationale for the benching, saying: "At this point, I just have got to leave it up to Coach."

"I expressed my desire to play," Griffin said. "Of course, I want to be out there and finish the season with my guys, see it through. He explained to me his reasoning, and at the end of the day Coach's decision is what we go with."

Asked if he'd rather play for a different coaching staff next year, Griffin said: "I think that's the general misconception, that players in our locker room want people gone."

Still, the move only serves to stoke the turmoil surrounding the Redskins (3-10) in general and Shanahan in particular. The team has lost five straight, giving the coach his third season of double-digits losses in four years in Washington. It appears increasingly unlikely he'll return for the final year of his five-year, \$35 million contract.

Shanahan went into great detail about his decision to sit Griffin, to the point that he made a quote that he no doubt wishes he could re-word because it will rank high in all-time Redskins infamy: "What I'm trying to do is be as honest as I can. And I don't normally do that."

Shanahan conceded for the



Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III, walks on the field during an NFL football practice Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013, in Ashburn, Va.

first time that his decision to keep an obviously injured Griffin in last year's loss to Seattle cost the Redskins the game. Griffin had major knee surgery a few days later and was sidelined for all of the offseason practices, the kind of vital development work that Shanahan says he doesn't want Griffin to

miss for a second straight year.

Shanahan said he first broached the topic of benching Griffin with owner Dan Snyder last week, even though the coach has contractual say-so over all personnel decisions. He said both Snyder and general manager Bruce Allen offered their "100 percent" support.

Shanahan cited that consensus as evidence that he's not trying to get fired. If he should resign, he would forfeit the final year's salary of his contract.

"Somebody said, 'Hey, the reason why you're going with Kirk is you're trying to get fired and get a year left on your contract,'" Shanahan said. "If I want to try to get fired, I'm not going to call up Dan Snyder and ask his opinion on a player (when) I don't have to. And if he says no, I'm not going to go in that direction."

Shanahan said he doesn't discuss most player moves with Snyder, but he did so this time "because we're going to have a circus atmosphere any time you make a decision like that."

Nevertheless, Shanahan, whose regular season record is 24-37 in Washington, again conceded he might not return for a fifth season.

"I don't know until I sit down with Dan," Shanahan said. "Then we'll find out what I think. I'll give him my opinions, and he'll give me his opinions. Maybe we just hit it off and everything and I get that 12-, 15-year contract."

"Well, maybe three-year," he added with a smile. "Whatever it is. That's where grown men talk at the end of the year and you find out, 'Hey, what's the best way to go?'"

Snyder was not available for comment. A person with knowl-

edge of the situation, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the matter, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that one of the options "on the table" for the owner is firing Shanahan with cause to keep from having to pay the final year of the deal. The person said Snyder is concerned that Shanahan's recent actions have embarrassed the Redskins.

Griffin hasn't been the same player who won the league's Offensive Rookie of the Year in 2012. With defenses taking away the read-option, he has struggled as a drop-back passer, ranking 26th in the NFL in passer rating with 16 touchdowns and 12 interceptions. The lingering effects of the knee surgery cost him some explosiveness, and he is taking a pounding—24 sacks over the last five games—but both coach and quarterback say Griffin is healthy enough to play.

Cousins has appeared in six games over two seasons, including a winning start last year at Cleveland while Griffin was injured.

"To start this game in Atlanta on Sunday is not the first time that I've had to face something that is a little unique," Cousins said. "It's just one more time where you've got to dig deep. You've got to work hard. You've got to be tough."

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Rent-to-Own

Hustlers rule Thursday League; Joe’s Saint enters finals

Poseidon Docomo Drunken Hustlers ruled the Thursday division of the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.



The Hustlers clinched the Thursday League championship after dominating the Poseidon 8Ballers in the last week’s finals, 9-3. In the other playoff game, Jokers Homeboyz edged SOS

Alamo Car Rental, 9-5, to finish third. Alamo settled for fourth place, followed by Bammys Equalizers, Wild Bills Crazy8, Jonny’s Team SCS, and Jonny’s Gentlemen.

In the Tuesday League, Joe’s Saint Trading and Jokers IT&E Voyagers notched separate wins to arrange their showdown for the division title. Jokers IT&E Voyagers outclassed Oceanside Docomo Hustlers in the second

semis match, 9-6, while Joe’s Saint Trading triumphed against Jonny’s Crazy8 in the first semis pairing, 9-4.

Joe’s Saint Trading and Jokers IT&E Voyagers were scheduled to duel for the Tuesday League championship last Dec. 10, while Oceanside Docomo Hustlers were set to meet Jonny’s Crazy8 for the third place.

Results in last week’s finals and battle for third in the Tues-

day League will determine the pairings for the Budweiser Cup, which will kick off next week. In the Thursday League, the first four pairings have been set with the Drunker Hustlers taking on Poseidon 8Ballers, Jokers Homeboyz challenging Alamo, Bammys dueling Crazy 8, and Jonny’s Team SCS colliding against Johnny’s Gentlemen. All first round games are slated for Dec. 19. *(Roselyn B. Monroyo)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players of Joe’s Saint Trading pose for a group photo before facing Jonny’s Crazy8 in the semifinals of the SBA Thursday League last week.

Bottom fishing derby on Tinian tomorrow

The Tinian Mayor’s Office will be hosting a bottom fishing derby on the island tomorrow, Dec. 14, from 6am to 6pm.

Anglers will be competing for prizes in seven categories—overall biggest, biggest deepwater, biggest shallow water, most variety deep bottom, most variety shallow bottom, total weight deep bottom, and total weight

shallow bottom.

Electric reels are the only equipment allowed for deep bottom fishing, while rod and reel, hand lines, and manual or hand drums are allowed for shallow bottom. The use of electric reels for shallow bottom is strictly prohibited.

Qualifying species in the deep bottom fish category are Eight

Banded Grouper, Onaga, Slivermouth, Pink Grouper, Greater Amber Jack, Ehu, Blue Line Gindai, Yellowtail-KaliKali, Yellow Banded Grouper, Deepwater Bream, Pink Opakapaka, Opakapaka, Gindai, and Dogtooth Tuna

Qualifying species in the shallow bottom fish category, meanwhile, are Tomato Grouper,

Black-tipped Grouper, Yellow Spotted trevally, Job Fish-Uku, Black-saddle Grouper, High Fin grouper, Black Jack, Blue Lined Snapper, Stout Emperor, White-Margined lyretail Grouper, Dogtooth Tuna, Long Nose Emporer, and Redgill Emporer

Organizers said the number of entries will determine the prize amount for each of the catego-

ries with the exception of overall biggest fish, which will be a sponsored prize.

All boats and vessels entered in the derby must depart from the Tinian Marina. In addition, all fish must be weighed in at the official weigh station at the Tinian Marina.

Entry fee for the bottom fishing derby is \$100 for a boat captain and an angler. Additional anglers cost \$25 each. *(Saipan Tribune)*

SGA Ace of Aces this weekend



The Saipan Golfers Association has designated Dec. 14 and 15 as its Ace of Aces Tournament.

Day 1 of the club yearend championship is set for tomorrow, Dec. 14, at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Show time is at 9am with a 10am tee time. Day 2 is on Sunday, Dec. 15, at the Marianas Country Club golf course. Show time is at 10am with an 11am tee time.

The following 2013 monthly aces will compete for the 2013 Ace of Aces perpetual trophy. They include Edward Sablan, James Whang, Steve Balakrishna, Ray Dela Cruz, Nick Sablan, Juan “Nani” Cruz, Ray San Nicolas, Greg Sablan, Rick Kautz, Jung Eun Teack, Juan L. Babauta, and Norman Tenorio. Other SGA members can still vie for the other prizes. *(Saipan Tribune)*

LIGHTNING

From Page 32

match report of the Lightning-Saints tiff provided to *Saipan Tribune* did not indicate details of the latter’s scoring).

After scoring the last TD for the Lightning in the first half, Laniyo picked up where he left off as he rushed for a 13-yard gain, while Kapileo followed it

up with a 15-yard gain off another pass from Donavin Ada. Despite moving forward, the Lightning failed to score and so did the Saints, as according to Lightning officials there were too many penalties and the 12-minute playing time quickly expired.

Following a fruitless third quarter, the Lightning attacked early with Donavin Ada throw-

ing to Angailen for a 40-yard gain. The Lightning then gained 19 more yards, courtesy off Terry, who gained seven more yards in the ensuing play, while Laniyo rushed for a 10-yard gain. The Lightning quarterback went on to complete the team’s offense by rushing for a 20-yard TD and scoring a 10-yard two-point conversion.

Now up at 34-12, the Light-

ning showed no mercy to the Saints, getting two more TDs and a two-point conversion. Austin Ada handed the Lightning its sixth TD with his 48-yard touchdown off a pass from Donavin Ada. Austin Ada’s TD was set up with the Lightning earning yards on four occasions. Terry rushed for a 14-yard gain, followed by a six-yard gain from linebacker Jose Camacho,

the fourth.

With the victory, Chinatown will play Pool B top-ranked Island Floral in the third quarterfinals game tomorrow at 6:30pm. In the second game at 8pm, San Antonio will take on NMI Contractor. The two other quarterfinals pairings that will be played tonight will have Docomo facing San Roque at 6:30pm and Fong’s Bakery battling I Love Saipan at 8pm.

First Game

Chinatown 76 – Deleon Guerrero 15, Sacramento 13, Iglecias 12, Lizama 12, Fleming 6, Kwon 6, Hemley 5, Zapanta

Ice in the final period, 23-13, en route to a double-digit winning margin. Four players scored at least two field goals each for Chinatown in the fourth quarter, while only Derrick Rangamar drilled more than two markers for Saipan Ice in the playoff frame.

Shane Deleon Guerrero knocked down 7 of his 15 points in the last 10 minutes of play, while Tony Fleming, Pete Lizama, and Vince Iglecias chipped in 4 points apiece. Rangamar had 8 points for Saipan Ice, which got its two other field goal from Nokki Saralu and Francisco Serrano (triple) late in

latter also finished in twin digits with 14, matching Cristobal’s output. Gyles Ruluked also had double figures with his 21. Factor led the third-seeded CJ Signs with his 20 markers.

Chinatown 76, Saipan Ice 62

In the other playoff game last Wednesday, Chinatown also showed poise in the fourth quarter to notch the seventh quarterfinals ticket and oust Saipan Ice & Water.

On top by only 4 points at the end of the third canto, 53-49, Chinatown leaned on its balance offense to outgun Saipan

I LOVE

From Page 32

Down by 6, CJ Signs was pressured to attempt for a triple and Herbert Maranan obliged, but missed. Fortunately he was fouled, but he made only one free throw and though he canned a layup off a steal from the backcourt in the closing seconds, Olaitiman sealed I Love Saipan’s upset with a split free throw.

Olaitiman top-scored for the sixth-ranked I Love Saipan with his 23 points and had more than 10 assists, which benefitted Bryan Lontoc the most, as the

TSUNAMI

From Page 32

De Jesus.

Kenshiro Yanai led Tsunami Saipan’s Top 3 finish in the boys U8 after posting the fastest times in four of the five events in last month’s competition. Yanai clocked in at 1:24.00 in the 100m freestyle to beat eventual runner-up Hans Xu and third placer Anthony De Leon Guerrero and five others. In the 50m freestyle, Kenshiro’s field best time read 36.39 seconds, while he recorded 54.10 seconds and 43.63 seconds in the 50m breaststroke and 50m butterfly, respectively. Xu foiled Kenshiro’s first place sweep when he logged 48.94 seconds in the 50m backstroke against the 52.62 seconds of the latter.

In the girls U18, Dangol prevailed against fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmer Nanaka Watanabe and Guam’s Risa Hendrix.

Dangol topped the 100m freestyle (1:39.77), finished second in the 50m butterfly (1:09.07) and 50m freestyle (45.96 seconds), fourth in 50m backstroke (58.26 seconds), and seventh in the 50m breaststroke (1:15.32)

In the 9 to 10 age group, Ryuto Yanai and Gauran both edged Tsunami Guam swimmers for the top spot. Ryuto won over Masami Aricayos, and was joined by teammate Juhn Tenorio in the Top 3. Gauran defeated Roxanne Mikel and fellow Tsunami Saipan bet Aika Watanabe.

Ryuto took first place in all five events, timing in at 1:11.12 in the 100m freestyle, 34.90 seconds in the 50m butterfly, 45.37 seconds in breaststroke, 41.18 seconds in 50m backstroke, and 31.28 seconds in the 50m freestyle. Gauran nearly duplicated Ryuto’s feat, winning four of the five events. She had the fastest times in the 100m freestyle

(1:20.10), 50m freestyle (36.98 seconds), 50m backstroke (44.89 seconds), and 50m backstroke (51.33 seconds), and third-best mark in 50m butterfly (46.38 seconds). Mikel ruled the butterfly race after submitting 40.04 seconds, while her teammate Ivory Howat came in at second after tallying 45.04 seconds.

Hiroto Yanai swept all five events in the boys 11 to 12 to down Guam’s Jimi Hendrix and teammate Mark Maestro. Hiroto clocked in at 1:06.86 in the 100m freestyle, 30.06 seconds in the 50m freestyle, 37.10 seconds in the 50m backstroke, 43.03 in the 50m breaststroke, and 34.32 seconds in the 50m butterfly.

Tammy missed a sweep, but her four first place finishes were enough to put her on top of the girls 11 to 12 age group, ahead of Guam’s Samantha Hon and Leilani Koiwa. Tammy ruled

the 100m freestyle (1:08.59), 50m freestyle (31.28 seconds), 50m backstroke (36.11 seconds), and 50m butterfly (33.04 seconds) and placed fourth in the 50m breaststroke (45.55 seconds) behind Hon (43.09 seconds), Reina Ross (43.99 seconds) and Ayaka Lin (44.06 seconds).

The Yanais completed their domination in the virtual meet with oldest brother Kaito prevailing in the boys 13 to 14 age group against Guam’s Seven Jeong and Sean Park. Kaito went 5-for-5 in last month’s competition, registering the field’s best times in the 100m freestyle (1:03.66), 50m butterfly (30.01 seconds), 50m breaststroke (34.87 seconds), 50m backstroke (33.21 seconds), and 50m freestyle (28.37 seconds).

In the girls 13 to 14 age group, De Jesus won three events to pull off an upset over Angel Marie Tan. Joining the

5, Dela Cruz 2, Quizon 1.

Saipan Ice & Water 62 – Rangamar 14, N. Saralu 12, Villanueva 8, Cayading 7, Kaipat 7, Serrano 2, R. Saralu 6.

Scoring by quarters: 18-14, 37-33, 53-49, 76-62.

Second Game

I Love Saipan 79 – Olaitiman 23, Ruluked 21, Cristobal 14, Lontoc 14, Manglona 3, Mendoza 2, Rabago 2.

CJ Signs 75 – Factor 20, Maranan 16, Francisco 16, Salas 13, Litulumar 4, Dela Rosa 2, Buenavista 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-14, 41-37, 63-57, 79-75.

two Tsunami Saipan swimmers in the Top 3 was Guam’s Hannah White. De Jesus prevailed in the 50m butterfly after clocking in at 34.01 seconds and also finished first in the 100m freestyle (1:07.52) and 50m freestyle (30.98 seconds). Tan saved first place in the 50m backstroke (35.10 seconds) and 50m breaststroke (39.06 seconds).

Meanwhile, Tsunami Guam topped the over 15 age group with Stephen Jagger winning in the boys division and Misaki Iijima reigning supreme in the girls division. Tsunami Saipan’s Kensuke Kimura settled for runner-up honors in the boys division, placing ahead of Tsunami Guam’s Soujyu Osui.

The virtual meet between Tsunami Saipan and Tsunami Guam swimmers will be held every month to help members of the club improve their times, according to Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	10	14	.417	—
Toronto	7	13	.350	1
Brooklyn	7	14	.333	1½
Philadelphia	7	16	.304	2½
New York	6	15	.286	2½

Southeast Division

Miami	16	6	.727	—
Atlanta	11	11	.500	5
Charlotte	10	12	.455	6
Washington	9	11	.450	6
Orlando	7	15	.318	9

Central Division

Indiana	19	3	.864	—
Detroit	10	13	.435	9½
Chicago	8	12	.400	10
Cleveland	8	13	.381	10½
Milwaukee	5	17	.227	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	17	4	.810	—
Houston	15	7	.682	2½
Dallas	13	10	.565	5
New Orleans	10	10	.500	6½
Memphis	10	11	.476	7

Northwest Division

Portland	18	4	.818	—
Oklahoma City	17	4	.810	½
Denver	13	8	.619	4½
Minnesota	11	11	.500	7
Utah	5	19	.208	14

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	15	8	.652	—
Phoenix	12	9	.571	2
Golden State	10	10	.500	2
L.A. Lakers	10	11	.476	4
Sacramento	6	14	.300	7½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI U19 vs Quality Distributors

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The CNMU U19 National Team's Scott Kim positions the ball for a corner kick during the first half of their game against Quality Distributors in the 2013 Marianas Football Cup last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



CNMI goalie Ethan Dickinson catches the ball.



The CNMI's Evan Belcher, left, stays on defense against a Quality Distributors player.



The CNMI's John Taisacan, fourth from left, loses control of the ball.



Quality Distributors' Brett Maluwelmeng dives for a save against the CNMI's Sean Perez.



A Quality Distributors player dribbles around the defense of the CNMI.



A Quality Distributors player goes for a header.



The CNMI's Joel Fruit tries to start a CNMI attack from the sideline.



The CNMI's Scott Kim battles two Quality Distributors players for possession.



Clippers beat
Celtics 96-88 in
Doc Rivers' return

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Shanahan sits RG3;
Cousins will start
for Redskins

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lightning routs Saints for second win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Eastern Lightning earned its second win in the 2013 CFLA Youth Football Warrior/Midget League after whipping the Northern Saints, 48-12, last Saturday at the Airport Field.

The Lightning held the Saints scoreless in the second half and drew another steady game from quarterback Donavin Ada to improve to a 2-0 record. The Lightning got its first win against the Southern Thunder, 40-34, last Dec. 7, while the Saints dropped the league opener versus the Thunder, 14-24.

Ada took over for the Light-

ing early in the game as after a pass to wide receiver Matthew Kapileo for a 30-yard gain, the quarterback scored on a 15-yard touchdown in the first quarter. In the second quarter, Ada and Kapileo partnered anew with the former feeding the latter for a 65-yard TD. Ada added two

more points on a 10-yard conversion.

The Lightning then got its third TD, courtesy of runningback Kermen Terry's five-yard touchdown. Before Terry scored, Ada made another perfect pass to tight end Kimo Angailen for a 37-yard gain,

while linebacker Austin Ada ran for a 20-yard gain. Angailen also had a 32-yard gain in the closing minutes of the second quarter off Donavin Ada's pass, paving the way for a 10-yard touchdown of running back Vincent Laniyo. With four TDs in the first half, the Lightning took a 26-12 advantage (the

See LIGHTNING on Page 30



The Eastern Lightning players pose for a group photo after beating the Northern Saints, 48-12, in the 2013 CFLA Youth Football Warrior/Midget League last Saturday at the Airport Field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

I Love Saipan ousts CJ Signs



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

I Love Saipan's Leonardo Cristobal loses his balance after colliding against CJ Signs' Prince Factor and Freddie Litulumar during the third quarter of their playoff game in the DL Corp. caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

I Love Saipan secured the last quarterfinals berth in the 2nd DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League after outlasting CJ Signs, 79-75, last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

I Love Saipan withstood CJ Signs' repeated rallies to eke out the 4-point win and eliminate the latter. CJ Signs fell behind early in the game and moved within one and two points on several occasions, but simply could not overtake I Love Saipan after committing errors and missing free throws in the homestretch.

CJ Signs at one point past the halfway mark of the fourth faced a 10-point deficit, 61-71, but

sliced it to 5 points, 66-71, and had a chance to move closer, but Albert Salas did not anticipate Ralph Francisco's pass and lost the leather to Mike Olaitiman. I Love Saipan went on to hit four free throws in the their next possessions, courtesy of Leonardo Cristobal and Olaitiman, but CJ Signs refused to give up with a

short 6-run to stay in the game, 76-62, with less than a minute left in the match.

A missed offensive set from I Love Saipan returned the leather to CJ Signs, which also failed to score with Prince Factor miffing two free throws. I Love Saipan then controlled the rebound with Olaitiman on the finishing end, making a layup and giving his team a 78-72 lead.

See I LOVE on Page 30



Tsunami Saipan dominates virtual meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center nearly swept the top honors in the All Tsunami Challenge held late month.

The All Tsunami Challenge was a virtual meet between Tsunami Guam and Tsunami Saipan swimmers

with the latter notching eight of the 10 first place finishes in the monthly event. Getting top honors for Tsunami Saipan were U8's Kenshiro Yanai and Ashley Dangol, 9 to 10's Ryuto Yanai and Sophia Gauran, 11 to 12's Hiroto Yanai and Miku Tammy, and 13 to 14's Kaito Yanai and Angel

See TSUNAMI on Page 30



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy competes in the 100m freestyle event in last month's All Tsunami Challenge held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.